THE GRIN

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GRIC makes proclamation in honor of elders at Annual Elders Day

"The elders deserve gratitude and respect for all that they have endured to shape and sustain the Community."- Gov. Lewis

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Elders gathered at the District 4 Multipurpose Facility for a day of fun activities and entertainment at the 24th Annual Elders Day on Nov. 15.

The event was marked by the announcement of a proclamation, recognizing November as elders month by the Gila River Indian Community's Executive Office.

"I really enjoy seeing all of you here today, and all the districts you represent, with your knowledge and wisdom," said Lt. Gov. Robert Stone.

He said "it's become a tradition to host gatherings each year across the Community, to see such a large turnout of elders and know the Executive Office appreciates you."

"We as a Community considers elders to be those individuals, that 55 years of age and older, where else the community recognizes that the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh elders are vital to our community and carry the knowledge of the Community's culture, history and family traditions," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

Elders from the Gila River Indian Community filled the District 4 Multipurpose Facility and were treated to a meal, presentations and other activities. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Linda Andrews, Elderly Concerns chairperson, accepted the proclamation from Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Stone.

Miss Gila River Tyler Owens presents at Elders Day in District 4. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

The proclamation is an initiative by the Community to continue acknowledging and committing its resources towards the welfare of the elder.

Gov. Lewis said, "The elders

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Gov Lewis cuts the ribbon on the location of the College Leaders plaque at Arizona State University. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gov. Lewis' name included on College Leaders Recognition Wall at ASU

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis received an honor from Arizona State University during a reception recognizing alumni and students. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences hosted the school's annual college leaders event held at Armstrong Hall on Nov. 22.

"We are coming together to honor very special alumni leaders, as well as 120 student leaders, that have been identified by faculty as the best of our 25,000 students," said Eric Spicer, Executive Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Inside Armstrong Hall's Future Center, a plaque was unveiled, inscribed with the names of 69 alumnus including Gov. Lewis, who was recognized as one of the College Leaders.

"It's very special to be able to represent, not only the Community, but Native Americans as a

Continued on Page 10

Running with a purpose

Runners gather to recognize historical O'otham Revolt of 1751

Runners and walkers laced-up their shoes and braved the cold morning temperatures for the Revolt Run, held in District 2 Hashen Kehk on Nov. 23, to commemorate the O'otham uprising against the Spanish in 1751. The run included a half-marathon, 10k, 5k and 1-mile run and walk. Beginning in District 2, runners made their way towards the San Tan Mountains. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gila River Indian News
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Employee Retirement Page 6

Gila River
HEALTH CARE

Congratulations!
Life Center Patients & Staff

- Nurse Practitioner visits have steadily increased by 40-50% since January 2019-present
- 42.2% patients have achieved an A1C result of 8% or lower. (Life Center target % is 36.2%)
  A1C test result reflects your average blood sugar level for the past two to three months.

Congratulations to our patients and providers, good outcomes are results of great patient-provider partnerships.

LIFE CENTER
DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

Let's Ask Dr. Roopa

How To Read And Understand Food Labels

Food labels are very important to understand. They are especially useful to plan meals for people with Diabetes as they have to restrict their carbohydrates intake in meals and snacks.

Where do I start?

Start by looking at the serving size. All of the information on the label is based on the serving size listed. If you eat more, that means you'll be getting more calories, carbohydrates, etc. than what is listed.

Let's Take A Closer Look

Amount Per Serving
The information on the left side of the label represents the totals of the different nutrients in one serving. Use these numbers to compare labels of similar food items

Calories
To lose weight, you need to eat fewer calories than your body burns.

Total Carbohydrate
Total carbohydrate on the label includes all types of carbohydrate - sugar, starch and fiber. It's important to use the total grams when counting carbs or choosing which foods to include.

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container
Serving size 2/3 cup (55g)

Amount per serving
Calories 230

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 8g	10%
Saturated fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	13%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total sugars 12g	
Includes 10g added sugars	20%
Protein 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 357mg	6%

* The % daily value (DV) tells you how much nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Fiber
Fiber is part of plant foods that is not digested – or for some types, only partially digested. Dried beans such as kidney or pinto beans, fruits, vegetables, and grains are all good sources of fiber.

Sugar
Just because a package says "sugar-free" on the outside, does not mean that it is calorie or carbohydrate-free! Always check the label for the grams of total carbohydrate and calories.

Total Fat, Saturated Fat, Trans Fat, And Cholesterol
Too much of the "unhealthy fats"(saturated fats) can increase your risk for heart disease and stroke.

Net Carbs And Other Similar Claims
Always look at the "Total Carbohydrate" on the Nutrition Facts label first. Checking your blood sugar can also help you figure out how specific carbs affect you.

What about Percent Daily Values (%DV)?
These tell you what percent of each nutrient the food provides if you were on a 2000 calorie per day diet. However, you should focus on the total amounts per serving when comparing labels and counting carbohydrates.

Please call Gila River Health Care Life Center (520) 562-7940 and make an appointment with a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) in the Life Center Clinic to learn more about reading labels.

Reminder! Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY 12/25/2019
CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY WEDNESDAY 1/1/2020

For any information on services open during the holidays, please call GRHC's main line 520.562.3321. GRHC's normal business hours will resume the Thursday after each holiday. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449

Honors for California GRIC member continue in Downtown LA

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Community member, Omerlene Thompson from District 6, has been selected as a 2019 American Indian Heritage Month Honoree by the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). She has been recognized for her continued work with the United American Indian Involvement (UAII) in Los Angles, Calif.

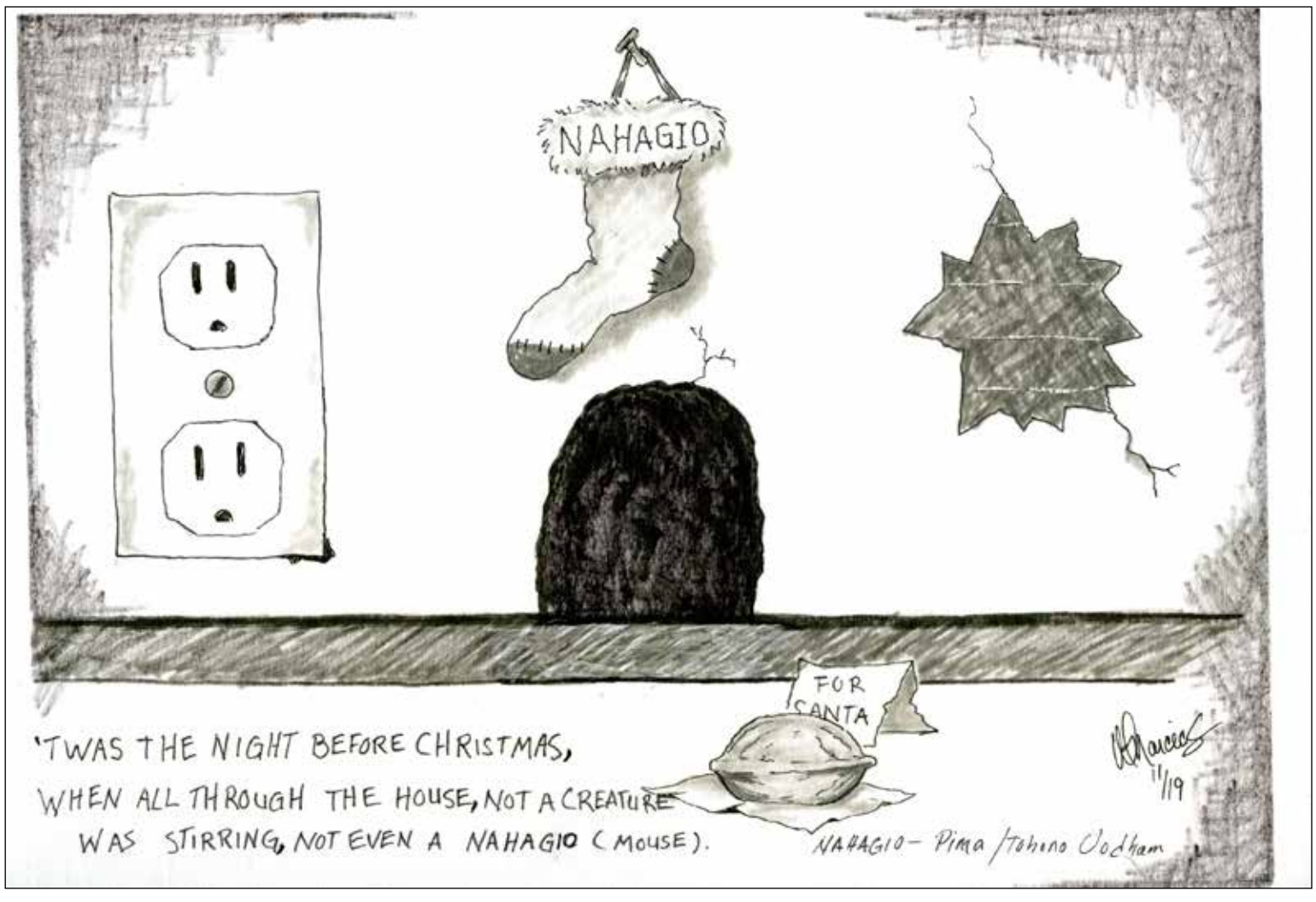
Working tirelessly in helping the Native American Indian community in the field of social services, according to the commission. The panel cited her greatest accomplishment as serving multiple generations of families by helping them succeed in school or work. Thompson was recognized on four different occasions for being named an honoree and celebrating her continued dedication to her work with the UAII for the past 36 years.

"It was a total surprise because I'm not the type of person to be presented with anything," said Thompson when asked how she felt about being named an honoree for Native American Heritage Month, "it's my job, it's just what I do". She also helped to bring out GRIC's enrollment office to share any of their resources to Community members in the Los Angeles area, such as updates and elections since 2014.

Throughout the years she has worked with many Native programs, "I just want to make sure people have what they need," said Thompson. Some of the works the UAII program has provided are a small clinic, mental health program, and more. Thompson makes regular visits back home to Gila River, where she plans to retire in the future

Omerlene Thompson during the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission's 4th Annual Pow Wow on Nov. 16. Photo courtesy of UAII.

The Achem A'al Indigenous Traditional Pima Basket Dancers attended the LANAIC Pow wow to honor GRIC member, Omerlene Thompson (center) . Photo courtesy of UAII.



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department Incident Log

November 03 - 09, 2019

Certain reports may not be available or are currently under investigation which GRPD holds the right to restrict public release. Calls for services this week: 784 Arrest made: 29

District One- (Blackwater)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Two – (Sacaton Flats)

THEFT –Officers were dispatched to a theft from the centers financial account. Investigation revealed that the suspect had taken an undisclosed amount of currency. The suspect was contacted and did not wish to speak to the officer after the Miranda rights were read. The reporting party would file through small claims court for restitution.

Status: Open Investigation

District Three- (Sacaton)

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT –Officers were dispatched to the hospital in reference to an assault that occurred. Investigation revealed that the victim and suspect were in a verbal altercation throughout the day. While having friends over and drinking alcoholic beverages the argument continued when the suspect physically assaulted the victim and began to "choke" the victim. The victim sustained injuries and informed officers the suspect would be at the residence where the incident occurred. Officers went to the residence where there was no answer. Charges have been forwarded to law office for review.

Status: Charges Forwarded

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT –Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a victim that arrived with a BB gunshot wound. Investigation revealed that while the victim and family members were outside in their backyard; a family member was attempting to shoot a bird when the victim crossed the path and was shot with the BB gun accidentally. The victim stated it was an accident and did not wish to aid in prosecution.

Status: Closed

District Four-

Stotonic Area –

THEFT –Reporting party stated that a pair of house slippers, house keys and money were taken; the suspect was identified and but no contact was made.

Status:

Lone Butte Area

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT –Officers were dispatched regarding a domestic disturbance. Investigation revealed that the victim and suspect were involved in a verbal altercation in their vehicle when the victim got out of the vehicle and attempted to cross the road when the suspect accelerated and struck the victim with the vehicle. The victim got into the vehicle with the suspect and drove to the town of Maricopa where another argument occurred and the victim got out of the vehicle. The suspect began to drag the victim in the parking lot of Taco Bell and Bank of America when a bystander called police. The victim was transported to Chandler Regional for medical treatment; the suspect was located; placed under arrest and booked into Maricopa County Jail.

Status: Arrested and booked into jail

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT –Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a domestic disturbance. Investigation revealed the suspect and the victim were in a verbal altercation when the suspect physically assaulted the victim. The victim had extensive facial trauma and was going in and out of consciousness. The victim was transported to Chandler Regional for medical treatment and the suspect was not located at the residence. A short time later the suspect was located and taken into custody.

Status: Arrested and booked into jail

SEXUAL ASSAULT –Officers were dispatched to a telephonic traffic call involving an incident that occurred. The victim stated that a sexual assault took place at the Wild Horse Pass Casino; detectives were notified and arrived on scene to assume the investigation.

Status: Open Investigation

THEFT –Officers were dispatched to the Phoenix Premium Outlet in reference to a theft. Contact was made with staff and the suspect that they had detained in a room. The suspect did not wish to speak with officers regarding the incident; surveillance footage was reviewed. The suspect concealed a pink Tommy Hilfiger sweater at the bottom of a bag she was carrying and attempted to leave the store when the alarm sounded. The store did wish to aid in prosecution; the suspect was detained and later cited and released to her mother; citation to appear at Kyrene Justice Court.

Status: Cite and release; sweater was recovered

THEFT –Contact was made with the reporting party/victim at the Wild Horse Pass Casino. Investigation revealed the victim had to cancel debit cards due to someone possibly taking his wallet while at the casino. The victim's wallet contained cash, debit cards and a driver's license. Video surveillance was reviewed regarding the incident.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification

District Five- (Casa Blanca)

AUTO THEFT–Officers were dispatched via telephonic traffic in reference to a possible theft of a vehicle. The reporting party/victim reported that a family member had requested to borrow the victim's vehicle due to their being inoperable. The family member's boyfriend took the vehicle and never returned; phone calls and text messages went unanswered by the suspect. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen after attempting to locate the vehicle. The vehicle was later recovered after the suspect left the vehicle at victim's family members residence with the keys left inside the vehicle. The vehicle was removed from NCIC after being located. The suspect was not contacted at the time of incident.

Status: Charges Forwarded

District Six – (Komatke)

AUTO THEFT–Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to theft of a vehicle. Investigation revealed a truck and trailer were stolen from a lot where the vehicles were stored. The vehicle was located due to it having GPS in vehicle; the vehicle was still running with the keys in the ignition. No damages were observed and was stuck in soft dirt. The trailer was not located and entered into NCIC as stolen. Another vehicle in the lot was damaged by having a left rear window broken out. Video surveillance was observed; photos were taken of the scene and the vehicles and later uploaded into evidence.com

Status: Closed pending suspect identification

AUTO THEFT–The reporting party reported that an unknown subject took a 2004 GMC truck registered to another family member that lived up north and requested to have the vehicle reported as stolen. The registered owner was contacted and signed the stolen affidavit; the vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen. There are no suspects at the time of incident.

Status: Closed pending further information

THEFT –Officers were dispatched to the District Six Service Center in reference to a theft. Contact was made with the reporting party/employee; investigation revealed at an unknown time a battery was stolen from a John Deere Tractor with the cables being cut and the battery taken. There were suspects at the time of incident.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification

District Seven – (Maricopa)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

GRPD officers and K9s certified

GRPD Officers and K9's from left to right: Officer Espinoza and Recon, Officer Rodriguez and Rusty, Officer Johnson and Narcos, Officer Brown and Karma, and Officer Wheeler and Max. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Officer Wheeler with K9 officer Max. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Four officers and K9's with the Gila River Police Department received their certifications for narcotics and patrol school on Friday, Nov. 15, after completing narcotics training and patrol school for suspect apprehension and bite work.

Training included security patrol and tracking, which trains the dogs to guard and protect along with basic obedience. Dogs are trained to bite arms and legs, search buildings and different areas for narcotics and/or suspects. Dogs can locate a hidden person and attack.

The certification was held at the Casa Grande Police Department for a four-hour process. Officers and their dogs underwent a series of drills to demonstrate basic commands and obedience, search tactics and bite work.

"What you saw today is played out ten hours a day, forty hours a week, basically over the last three months," said Sandy Brown, GRPD K9 Unit trainer and handler, who recertified along with his dog, Karma.

Yearly certifications are done for both narcotics and patrol dogs to show that they still meet the standards to work. Both dog and handler must certify together as a team. "It's a good class. It's a lot of hard work," said Officer Wheeler, who earned certification along with his dog Max.

"Being able to really serve the Community as a unit now, is really something that we're looking forward to," said Officer Brown. Officers and K9's: Sandy Brown and Karma, Chris Wheeler and Max, Alex Johnson and Narcos, Andrew Rodriguez and Rusty.

Complete guide at www.grbc.tv/schedule **GRBC TV GUIDE** ***Schedule may be subject to change.**

	Sunday 12/8	Monday 12/9	Tuesday 12/10	Wednesday 12/11	Thursday 12/12	Friday 12/13	Saturday 12/14
12:00pm	Travel & Delights *Fricassee De Poulet*	Creative Native *Bow and Arrow*	Creative Native *Feather Paintings*	Creative Native *Medicine Wheel*	Creative Native *Woodland Cultural Center*	Seasoned With Spirit *Bounty of the River's Edge*	**2015 DISTRICT 4 WINTER GATHERING**
12:30pm	Fit First	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	Fit First
1:00pm	Native Planet - Mexico *Indigenous communities are now caught in a battle between drug cartels and Mexico's military police.*	Tending the Wild *Examines how humans are necessary to live in balance with nature and how traditional practices can inspire a new generation*	Skeletons of New Zealand -Under the Carpet *Takes us back to our planet's oldest people: their origins and their*	Finding My Talk *The tireless efforts of individuals who are reviving and preserving Aboriginal languages.*	Vamizi Cradle of Coral *With one-third of the world's coral reefs dying, this doc follows a team of conservationists to save Vamizi*	California Pow Wow	Defending the Fire *Follows the journey of the Native Warrior as he (and she) continue conflict resolution in order to survive and secure resources and*
1:30pm						The Beginning of the End	
2:00pm	**BARNABY V. LEWIS CULTURAL PRESENTATION**	**2017 WAILA FEST**	Samaqan Water Stories *Fish Lake Part 2*	Ravens and Eagles	Samaqan Water Stories *Xax fla lise sla*	**2017 MISS GILA RIVER CROWNING**	Champions of the North *Sisters*
2:30pm	Vitality Gardening *Gardening Therapy*	Underexposed *Raven's Call!*	Underexposed *Meeting Up*	Underexposed *The Coastal Crew*	Underexposed *Old Meets New*	Underexposed *Sisters*	Vitality Gardening *Going Berry Picking*
3:00pm	The Human Effect *Thoughts and advice for finding balance and living in peace in harmony with the environment and each other.*	Working It Out Together *Inside Out*	Working It Out Together *Flying Past Fears*	Working It Out Together *Love Is The Best Medicine*	Working It Out Together *Letting Go*	Working It Out Together It's About the Journey	Urban Native Girl *Head-dressed Halloween*
3:30pm		**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**
4:00pm	**2015 WAILA FEST**	Native Planet - Mexico *Indigenous communities are now caught in a battle between drug cartels and Mexico's military police.*	Rez Rides *Nissan Titan Lift Kits*	On Native Ground: Youth Report	The New Zealanders - The Chathams *Take a tour with the islands' sole policeman, , visit the country's most isolated*	Storytellers in Motion *The Maori Voice Pt.2*	Making Regalia *Roach Spinners*
4:30pm	**GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS**		Aboriginal Adventures *Ancient Artifacts-Sooke*	Common Ground *Jewelry Artist*		On Native Ground: Youth Report	Future History *The Children*
5:00pm	Ambassadors of the Sky *Learning about the importance of protecting the night sky for the health of humans and wildlife.*	First Talk *The New Weight Control*	First Talk *Aboriginal Economics*	First Talk *Hopi Nation*	First Talk *Fear of Success*	First Talk *Suicide Prevention*	The New Zealanders - Central Plateau *A wild west town in the middle of nowhere with inhabited by Cowboys and Indians and what really*
5:30pm		Behind the Brush *Waimarama*	Indian Pride *Health and Healing*	Making Regalia *Roach Spinners*	People of the Pines *Invasion and Response*	Sivummut *Look to the Future*	
6:00pm	Tending the Wild *Examines how humans are necessary to live in balance with nature and how traditional practices can inspire a new generation*	Skeletons of New Zealand -Under the Carpet *Takes us back to our planet's oldest people: their origins and their*	Finding My Talk *The tireless efforts of individuals who are reviving and preserving Aboriginal languages.*	Vamizi Cradle of Coral *With one-third of the world's coral reefs dying, this doc follows a team of conservationists to save Vamizi*	California Pow Wow	Defending the Fire *Follows the journey of the Native Warrior as he (and she) continue conflict resolution in order to survive and secure resources and*	Indigenous Focus *Not Just a Piece of Cloth*
6:30pm					The Beginning of the End		Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People
7:00pm	Red Earth Uncovered *Earth and Balance: Part 1*	Democracy Now! *A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program.*	Democracy Now! *A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program.*	Democracy Now! *A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program.*	Democracy Now! *A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program.*	Democracy Now! *A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program.*	Wapos Bay *Tricks and Treats*
7:30pm	The Medicine Line *Space*						Wild Archaeology *Little John*
8:00pm	Aboriginal Adventures *Forest Foraging*	Indigenous Focus *Johnny Be Good*	Wild Archaeology *Little John*	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Future History *The Children*	Dabiyiyuu *A Season in the Bush*	Hit The Ice *Now or Never*
8:30pm	**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**	**GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS**
9:00pm	Native Shorts *Wapawekka*	Red Earth Uncovered *Earth and Balance: Part 2*	Cashing In	Chaos & Courage *Tribal Police*	Native Shorts *The Cave /Choke*	The Aux *Compilation of music videos featuring diverse talents of Native & World Indigenous cultures.*	Cashing In
9:30pm	The Aux *Compilation of music videos featuring diverse talents of Native & World Indigenous cultures.*	Indians and Aliens *Mystery on the Highway*	Studio 49 *Pete Sands*	Tribal Police Files *A Hunch*	Kvcarts *Pete Sands Part 2*		Mixed Blessings *Pow Wow*
10:00pm		Standing on Sacred Ground - Pilgrims and Tourists	The Tundra Book *A rare glimpse into a community determined to preserve it's ancient cultures and traditions.*	The Invisible Nation *9,000 Algonquin are left in about 10 communities, often enduring abject poverty and human rights abuses. Suffering the threat to their very existence in silence.*	Peach Blossom Garden *1,500 years ago, the great Chinese poet, Tao Yian Ming, wrote the poem 'The Garden of The Peach Tree Flowers' For centuries people have been searching where this magical place was, without any success*	Fighting for Peace *British ex-boxer strives to provide an alternative through running a boxing school to fight their way out of the slums and become*	Defenders of Life *According to custom, she must soon marry off her only granddaughter, and 70 year-old shaman Don Claudio lays his claim to the girl, who is only 12 and already pregnant.*
10:30pm	Rez						
11:00pm	Songcatchers: The Gathering *A 2017 Native American Music Special*	Kanie'keha:Ka: Living The Language Part 1 of 2				Circus Without Borders *They share a dream: take circus to the youth in their communities.*	
11:30pm			Tribal Sovereignty	Where The Highway Ends	**HOOKED Rx Prescription to Addiction**		Second Stories-Honour Thy Father

O: 520.796.8848 **See the full day and details of the TV guide at www.grbc.tv/schedule** **info@grbc.tv**

DCH employee retires after 37 years of service with GRIC

DCH Director Laurie Thomas (left) presents a plaque of appreciation to Abigail Thomas (right) at her retirement function in District 5 on Nov. 21. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Department of Community Housing honored the recently retired Abigail Thomas with a lunch reception at the Department of Community Housing warehouse in District 5 Sacate on Nov. 21 for her nearly four decades of service.

"It's been 37 years, almost 38, I started with the Department of Education and worked with Tribal Social Services, Alcohol and Drug and Addiction Program, Gaming Office and then Housing," said Thomas who said she remembers the days of typewriters and Xerox machines.

DCH presented Thomas with a plaque and Pendleton blanket. "It's going be a big loss, she's been through so many changes and developments, decimation work orders, she's the longest employee for building maintenance," said DCH Director Laurie Thomas.

Inscribed on the crystal plaque was, "Abigail Thomas Secretary III Department of Community Housing, retired with distinction, a time to look with back with admiration and look forward with anticipation, happy retirement."

"I think working with members trying to serve them in any way I could to help them out," said Thomas. She said, she's seen a lot of the people grow up throughout her career, starting families of their own.

As for retirement, Thomas said she wants to relax, possibly go back to school, get back to sewing, but most importantly spend time with her grandchildren and husband.

She said that her work may have seemed monotonous but it was an important part of the whole process of serving the Gila River Indian Community.

Thomas thanked everyone, who made each day enjoyable and for the support and appreciation for putting together the luncheon and award for her years of service.


Winter
MARKETPLACE
Community Artisans will be selling holiday arts and crafts! Come support local artisans and cross items off your Christmas list!
Grab a bite to eat from food vendors on site!
December 13, 2019
Governance Center, Sacaton
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Vendor applications can be picked up at the CPAO Office located in the Governance Center or email: Special.Events@gric.nsn.us
For more information, please contact Alie Walking Badger at (520) 562-9713 or Shannon Redbird at (520) 562-9859.

St. Peter Indian Mission School students present 'from the heart' at annual Native American Heritage month event

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, which is observed in November, Gila River Indian Community's Human Resources Department hosted about 60 St. Peter Indian Mission School students at the Governance Center in Sacaton on Nov. 15.

The presentation was called "Honoring Native Americans through Song and Dance." The students presented in the lobby before GRIC staff and visitors with traditional songs and dances led by the St. Peter cultural teachers.

"We're doing it from our heart," said St. Peter Cultural Teacher Corinna Harrison.

Cultural Teacher Martin Luna offered a prayer to begin the program, and also introduced each portion of the presentation with the significance of each song and dance performed by the students, which consisted of third grade students and Jr. High boys and girls.

The students and staff shook the hands of everyone in attendance before they were transported back to St. Peter Indian Mission School in District 5.

St. Peter Indian Mission School Jr. High boys and girls perform in the Governance Center lobby on Nov. 15 as part of a Native American Heritage Month celebration hosted by the Human Resources Department. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

District 7 youth makes record-breaking catch at Tempe Town Lake with 50 lb. catfish

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

District 7 Community member Christopher Mercado, age 17, made a record-breaking catch while fishing, when he reeled in a 50 lb., 37-inch flathead catfish from Tempe Town Lake on Wednesday, Oct 28. Mercado is an avid fisherman and his catch is the talk of the town. In November, he was even featured on the Arizona Game and Fish website with his record-breaking fish in hand.

Christopher Mercado recounted catching the fish stating, "It was a big moment, I was shaking trying to hold it up and bleeding from its teeth, but we were excited and yelling." At the time, Mercado knew it was a noteworthy catch but didn't immediately realize it was the record for Tempe Town Lake.

On the morning of the catch, Christopher set out on a two-hour bus ride from District 7 to his friend's home in Tempe. After casting their lines, the first few hours were uneventful until his bass lure began shaking from a catch. Christopher and his friend had to take turns reeling in the fish, and after a 25-minute fight, Christopher landed his catch.

Immediately after Christopher and his friend snapped a few pictures, then released it back into the lake. Before Christopher's catch, the previous Tempe Town Lake record holding flathead catfish was only 15 inches long.

Christopher's parents are James and Jodi Mercado. Jodi Mercado was very proud of Christopher's accomplishment and was the one to notify Arizona Game and Fish three days after the catch. It was at that point Christopher was informed that he now holds the record for the biggest fish caught at Tempe Town Lake. Mrs. Mercado stated, 'It's very inspiring for me because I know there's a lot of negative things he could be doing, so I'm proud that he's out there doing positive things."

Mrs. Mercado is confident in Christopher's talents and hopes that he maintains his interest and achieves his goal to become a professional fisherman.

Christopher's interest in fishing started at Cesar Chavez Lake in Laveen, and after his first few catches became "addicted" to the sport. Today, Christopher takes online classes, and after completing his daily school work from home, he walks to a local area in District 7 for fishing to maintain and brush up on his skills. He acknowledges his family and peers that support him by sharing tips and fishing gear with him to continue his goals to go pro.

Moving forward, Christopher has his goals set on becoming a member of a professional fishing association at some point. He also wants to work towards purchasing a boat to help further his skills. You can follow his fishing journey on his Instagram fishing page by searching the Instagram handle, "Chrisbassin102702."

Christopher Mercado holds up his big catch, a 50 lb. flathead catfish caught at Tempe Town Lake on Oct. 28 Courtesy of Christopher Mercado

Water Rights Day Celebration 2019

"Reflecting on the Past and Protecting our Future"

Tuesday, December 10th, 2019

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass

5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85226

Guest speakers, entertainment, and more!

Lunch and gifts for the first 400 attendees

For more information, please contact (520) 562-9859

HEADLINES
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
"Putting Our People First"

Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor

Robert Stone
Lt. Governor

Elders applaud during the festivities which included a raffle and entertainment. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

From left, Lt. Gov. Robert Stone, Linda Andrews and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at the annual Elders Day event. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

deserve gratitude and respect for all that they have endured to shape and sustain the Community."

"We want to also recognize, those elders that are 80-years-old and older, we know you've seen so much, you are the bedrock of the Community," said Lewis.

The Gila River Royalty also spoke in honor of GRIC elders.

"I cherish spending my time with you, hearing your stories and where you come from," said 2019-2020 Miss Gila River Tyler Owens.

"I want to thank you all for allowing us to be here, to catch up with you on how you all are doing, we appreciate this time to sit down and learn about the Community's history," said Jr. Miss Gila River Susanna Osife.

Elders were treated to entertainment, raffle prizes and other activities throughout the day, which included a DJ and live music.

Governor's Employees of the Month announced for August and September 2019

It was a special occasion for two Gila River Indian Community employees who were recognized as the August and September Governor's Employee of the Month winners. Thomas White (left), Management Information Systems Manager, received the August GEM, while Michael Schrimsher (right), Gila River Fire Department Firefighter, was awarded the September GEM. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

College Leaders cont'd from Page 1

whole," said Lewis. He said he is proud to be an alumni of the college, and is grateful for the school's mentors, professors and others, who contributed to his education at ASU.

He said the honor isn't based on one person, but shows how transformative education can be and serves as a model for Community members who are interested in higher education.

"I think [this] is what our elders want, what our parents want, it's what veterans have fought for, for a better life for our Community," said Lewis.

Spicer said the plaque reflects the trend of role models for successful leadership, that is indicative of the core teachings student receive at the college.

Four individuals were also inducted into the College Leader's alumni during an induction and recognition program inside the Marston Exploration Theater at ASU. They were Clinton Ang, Reyna Montoya, Cheryl Najafi, and Michael Convey. Each of them either represented a vast field of careers as entrepreneurs, CEO's, authors, and judges for major municipalities.

Patrick J. Kenney, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

College Leaders and special guests gather during the reception hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • November 20, 2019

ACTION SHEET
Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729
CALL TO ORDER
The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:21 a.m.
INVOCATION
Provided by Councilman Joey Whitman
ROLL CALL
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Council Members Present:
D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Monica Antone, Delmar Jones, Pamela Johnson; D5- Janice Stewart, Marlin Dixon, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:23), Charles Goldtooth (9:50), Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
D4-Jennifer Allison; D5-Franklin Pablo, Sr.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORTS #2, #3, AND #5
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #4; RESOLUTION #3, AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1 THROUGH #8 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED
PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
1. Gila River Police Department Introduction Of Assistant Police Chief
Presenter: Timothy Chavez
CHIEF TIMOTHY CHAVEZ INTRODUCED MR. WILLIAM MORAGO. MR. MORAGO PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND AND HIS PLANS FOR THE POSITION. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS, GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS AND LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.
2. Introduction Of K-12 Student Advisor
Presenter: Trina Hart
MS. TRINA HART INTRODUCED CARLA AL HARTHI. MS. AL HARTHI PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND AND HIS PLANS FOR THE POSITION. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS, GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS AND LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.
REPORTS
*1. 3rd, 4th, & Final FY 2019 Pee-Posh Veterans Association Budget Reports
Presenter: Arnie Bread, Sr.
REPORT HEARD
*2. Repurpose of the District 6 Tribal Health Department
Presenter: Candalerian Preston
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. GRIIDD FY2019 Annual Report
Presenter: Ronald Allison
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>4. Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project – FY2019 Annual Report (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019)
Presenter: David DeJong
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. Community Services Department - Elderly Services Program
Presenter: Christopher Mendoza
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. Community Services Department – Elderly Nutrition Program
Presenter: Christopher Mendoza
REPORT HEARD
7. Community Services Department - Nutrition Assistance Program
Presenter: Christopher Mendoza
REPORT HEARD
8. Quarterly Treasurer's Report – FY 19 4th Quarter ending September 30, 2019 (Executive Session)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT
RESOLUTIONS
1. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 1157) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Warren Wiltshire, Eugene Blackwater
APPROVED
2. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 1399) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Warren Wiltshire, Eugene Blackwater
APPROVED
3. A Resolution Approving An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community, Certain Allottees, The U.S. Department Of Interior, Bureau Of Indian Affairs And Arizona Public Service Company, To Grant An Easement To Arizona Public Service Company For A Maximum 25 Year Term (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC and EDSC concur. EDSC forwards under the consent agenda)
Presenters: Ronald Rosier, Denten Robinson
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
>1. Tribal Healing To Wellness Court Planning Initiative (LSC motioned to nominate Councilman Terrance B. Evans to the Wellness Court Planning Initiative)
Presenter: Kami Hart
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>2. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan 2019-2020 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval and additional material)
Presenter: Lillian Kim Franklin
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>3. Maricopa Village Christian School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan 2019-2020 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval with additional information)
Presenter: Al Chatman
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>4. Saint Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan 2019-2020Presenter: Sister Martha Carpenter
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>5. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Directors Declaration of One (1) Vacancy (Advertise for 60 days; subject to the Code of Conduct)
Presenters: Community Council
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>6. Request to the Community Council to Direct WHPDA to Provide a Quarterly Report to EDSC Regarding All Entities Under WHPDA's Control (EDSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Councilman Terrance Evans
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>7. Gaming Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2019 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert Keller
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>8. Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2019 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert Keller
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MINUTES
1. October 2, 2019 (Regular)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
2. October 16, 2019 (Regular)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS
3. November 4, 2019 (Special)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
4. November 6, 2019 (Regular)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS
~ SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 9AM AND 1PM
~SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019 AT 9AM
ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:34 A.M.
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Nutrition Coalition hosts wellness gathering

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Participants share their ideas at the wellness gathering in District 6. Emma Hughes/GRIN

The Community Health Nutrition Program hosted a wellness gathering on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the District 6 Boys & Girls Club. The event began with a nutritional breakfast, blessing and a brief presentation of the Community's background presented by members of the coalition.

The Nutrition Coalition is the result of a "Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country" five-year grant provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that is administered through the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona.

A background and overview of the Nutrition Coalition was given and opened for comments and questions, discussions on what health looks like and what it means to the Community. The Nutrition Coalition educates Community members on healthy eating, conducts assessments, and hosts health-related activities. The coalition meets every first Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact the Community Health Nutrition Program at (520) 562-5100 or (520) 550-8000.

GRIC managers and directors listen to presentations at "Light the Fire" managers conference at Lone Butte Casino. Emma Hughes/GRIN

GRIC management learn leadership skills at HR conference

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community's Human Resources Department has been hosting "Light the Fire" Management and Leadership conferences. Geared towards emotional intelligence for leadership influence, the conference is intended for directors and managers. One meeting was held in September and featured an all-day agenda with presentations, lunch, games and entertainment. The conference carries an ongoing Hawaiian theme. On Nov. 21, the conference was held for a second time, both at the Lone Butte Casino.

HOUSING OWNERS TEAM UPDATE

The purpose of this update is to provide the Community with a status of current housing construction pursuant to the Residential Housing Improvement Program (the "RHIP").
The Community Council established a Housing Owner's Team (the "HOT") to perform all construction activities related to RHIP housing for years 2015-2018. The HOT is comprised of Community Council members and various employees of the Community. The HOT members are Councilman Franklin Pablo, Sr.; Councilman Avery White; Governor Stephen R. Lewis; Lt. Governor Robert Stone; Acting Community Manager Kathyleen Curley; Councilman Arzie Hogg; Councilman Delmar Jones; Acting Director Department of Public Works Tom Guenther; Community Treasurer Robert G. Keller; Director Land Use Planning and Zoning Kimberly Antone; Acting Director Department of Housing Development; and Senior Project Manager Tribal Projects Department.
The HOT has met regularly to fulfill the responsibilities as provided by the Community Council. The HOT is currently working on the pre-construction activities for the 2015 RHIP applicants. For example, the HOT recently hired Atek to conduct Geo-Technical soils testing of home sites. HOT is in the process of contracting ID Studio Architects for design revisions and construction administration. And due to the complexity of this project, and the time that will need to be dedicated to the management, the HOT will also be looking to hire a Senior Project Manager to assist the HOT with the various aspects of housing Construction.
This information is preliminary information that the HOT will continue to provide the Community as we move forward. If you have any questions please feel to contact the Councilman Franklin Pablo, Sr., Chairman of the HOT, at 520-610-8910, for the Construction status of RHIP housing and for RHIP Policy questions, please contact Wayne Allison, Acting Director for Department of Housing Development at (520)-562-1863.

Court Date Notice

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA
PRECIOUS LEE ANTONE
Petitioner/Plaintiff
vs.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HOUSING
Respondent/Defendant
TO: PRECIOUS ANTONE
CASE Number: CV-2019-0231-MO
CIVIL SUMMONS
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court. YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING regarding this matter on: Monday, December 9, 2019 at 11:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.
YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court. If you fail to appear and defend, iudgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Court Date Notice

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA
SHERLENE LENORA MILES
Petitioner/Plaintiff
vs.
ALUCARD PRATT
Respondent/Def end ant
TO: ALUCARD PRATT
CASE Number: FM-2019-0102-PT
CIVIL SUMMONS
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court.
YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING regarding this matter on: Monday, December 9, 2019 at 10:30 AM in Courtroom I, AK.IMEL O'OIBAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.
YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court. If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Court Date Notice

IN THE COURT OF THE
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA
COURT DATE NOTICE
In Re Case: Sherlene Lenora Miles vs. Alucard Pratt
Docket Number: FM-2019-0102-PT
This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may ordered.
Answer/Response Hearing
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,
721 West Seed Farm Road,
Sacaton, AZ 85147
9th day of December, 2019 at 10:30 AM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Dallas DeLowe

Probate Hearing

Mercado, Kyle L
Probate Hearing
Case: P-19-0052
Court Date: January 14, 2020 at 2 p.m.
Courtroom #1, 1st floor
FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS
JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
ADDRESS: 10040 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256
CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

Court Date Notice

COURT DATE NOTICE
In Re Case: Kimberlee Ann Begay vs. Robert Jason** CS Lewis Sr.
Docket Number: CV-2011-0306-ZPT
This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may ordered.
Answer/Response Hearing
Westend Judicial Center,
4751 West Pecos Road,
Laveen, AZ 85339
30th day of December, 2019 at 11:00 AM in Courtroom VII before the Honorable Sheri L Cassa

Happy Birthday

"A very Happy 4th Birthday to my son Jose William Stone?" No day goes by that I don't think of you son. I can only be proud of you as I cling to words that reach me here from home. The ones that say you're happy and growing fast, that you love to talk and help or that you're just so cute. Those words are all I have of you for now because of choices I made. You don't know my voice or my face, I left before you had the chance to. I was one of the first to tell you I love you, one of the first to kiss and hold you.
Maybe when you first get to hold me or hear me again you will remember me. You'll know I never stopped loving you because I never have. No matter how much you keep growing you'll always be my baby. Thank you to everyone whose there for Jase, his family who spoils him, his sister Danni who teases him, and everyone else who protects him just like his big brother Jaden. You are all awesome!
Happy Birthday baby, I Love You-Dad
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE, MAKE FAMILY FIRST A PRIORITY

Former member of Post 84 will have a monument in his honor at Memorial Park

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Work began on a monument to recognize a close friend to the Gila River Indian Community. Members from Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84, broke ground on a monument that will be dedicated to the legacy of Masaji Inoshita on Nov 19. The monument will be built on the grounds of the Ira H. Hayes/Matthew B. Juan Memorial Park in District 3 Sacaton.

Referred to many, as "Mas," he was an influential part of the Post 84's efforts to educate the public about the Gila River War Relocation Center (Japanese Internment Camp) located in District 5.

Mas, the Japanese American Coalition League, along with the help of the Community, maintained a monument, that serves as reminder of the history of the Japanese Americans, who lived, where the camp once stood between 1942 to 1945. Post 84 Adjutant Tony McDaniel said the monument will be have a plaque and picture of Mas, that will be dedicated in December.

Marilyn Inoshita Tang, said "My father would be so honored, I didn't envision something of this magnitude. He loved this community, he identified with the core values of the people and that's what drew him to this place."

She said Mas would make regular trips to the Community, even at his elder age, he would make an effort to keep in contact with the Post 84 and participated in the annual Iwo Jima flag raising parade held every February.

Workers prepare a location at the Ira H. Hayes Mathew B. Juan Memorial Park for a new monument to be erected in honor of the late Masaji Inoshita. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Miss Gila River greets Pony Express riders as they promote Gilbert Rodeo Days

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Arizona's historical Pony Express made its way through the Gila River Indian Community Friday, Nov. 15, stopping at the location in Sacaton. The event kicks off the annual Gilbert Rodeo Days festivities that culminate with the Rodeo Nov 22 - 24. The annual Pony Express ride is made possible by the Gilbert Promotional Corporation's Gilbert Day's Rodeo Committee.

The Pony Express Ride is an authentic recreation with riders relaying saddlebags full of mail on horseback from Gilbert to Florence, Ariz. The letters were from students at various elementary schools that outline the Gilbert area. They delivered to neighboring towns between Gilbert and Florence. This recreation has taken place since 1978, and the United States Postal Service also sanctions its mail carrier duties.

The route started on Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway before its first mail stop in Sacaton. It featured Gilbert Rodeo Queen Tatum Lance and Gilbert Rodeo Teen Queen Anna Butler, along with numerous members of the Gilbert Rodeo Day's Committee.

Miss Gila River Tyler Owens welcomed and greeted the committee upon arrival and shared some time to learn about the historical significance of the Pony Express and wish the riders well upon their two-day journey. Owens was also presented with a gift in a specially designed bag commemorating the 2019 Pony Express Ride.

Bobby Padilla, President of the Gilbert Days Rodeo Committee, said, "Students learned about the Pony Express and also how to write a letter. Those letters were collected, received a commemorative stamp, and are to be delivered anywhere between Gilbert and Florence."

This year was the first year riding the trail for Anna Butler, Gilbert Rodeo Teen Queen. Butler said, "I'm super excited to be a part of the tradition since it's something we don't always have a chance to do every day."

And for Gilbert Rodeo Queen Tatum Lance, this was her third year participating on the Pony Express Ride. Lance said, "The Pony Express is super exciting because you get to see how mail used to travel, by horseback, instead of today where it's all by trucks." Butler has grown up participating during the Gilbert Rodeo Days and was happy to continue the Pony Express tradition.

Miss Gila River Tyler Owens (center) with the Pony Express Riders who visited Sacaton on Nov. 15. Kyle Knox/GRIN

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