



## Phoenix Rising Football Club Ready to Host Fans at New Facility *Defending Western Conference Champions Aim for May 1 Season Opener*



A field view of the Phoenix Rising Football Club's stadium, which the organization says will be ready for the regular season this spring. The new sports facility includes a whole host of amenities to enhance fan experience. Kyle Knox/GRIN

### Kyle Knox

Gila River Indian News

Phoenix Rising Football Club is gearing up for their first game on May 1, at their new soccer stadium and training facility located at Wild Horse Pass. The stadium offers a first-class facility, amenities, fan experience, and central location for

soccer fans across the Valley. With a new home within the Community, the club also looks forward to building a solid partnership with GRIC.

Bobby Dulle, Phoenix Rising General Manager, is entering his fifth season with the organization and says he is excited about the new home stadium. "I get

goosebumps thinking about that moment when we can get past COVID and ultimately get fans here in full capacity," said Dulle.

Dulle is impressed with the progress made within the last 90 days, including completion of the training fields and facilities that will house the team's coaches, locker rooms, medical staff, and

trainers. "Everyone is operating and functioning on those two beautiful fields, and there are not two better in the country right now, I can assure (everyone) of that," said Dulle.

As part of the preseason training, the Phoenix Rising's staff, players, and coaches attended a cultural training. The training

provided the Community's history and cultural background.

One aspect Dulle and other staff say they recognize and greatly appreciate from the Community is the hospitality shown to the team since moving to Wild Horse Pass. Dulle says in return Phoenix Rising is ready to offer that same hospitality to their fans and members of the Community.

Recently, Phoenix Rising contributed to the success of the GRIC mass vaccination events at Rawhide. Moving ahead, the team anticipates long-term partnerships with youth, GRIC charities and they're looking forward to the day when they can march in a Community parade.

Phoenix Rising will begin the new season on May 1, as the United Soccer Leagues defending Western Conference champions. The regular season schedule has yet to be released. Fans can visit phoenixrisingfc.com for more information on Phoenix Rising and the upcoming season.

## High School Basketball Player Sets Sights on College

### Christopher Lomahquahu

Gila River Indian News

The 2021 state championship run has ended for the Coolidge High School Bears Boys' Basketball team, but the playing days for District 3 resident Nickolas Harrison, the team's star guard, will likely continue into college.

Through hard work in the books and on the hardwood, Harrison has been offered scholarships by the following institutions to play basketball for Benedictine University, Humboldt University, Purdue Northwest University, SAGU American Indian College and Northland Pioneer College.

Harrison, who led Coolidge to the state quarterfinals after a 59-55 win over Yuma Catholic on March 10, has multiple college scholarship offers on the table. The Bears season ended with a 51-42 loss to Page High School last week. Harrison, who averaged 14.8 points per game this season, had 10 points for the Bears.

Having come off a win over Yuma Catholic at home, Harrison was hopeful for the team's

current playoff push to the 3A State Championship. "It's the playoffs, all the teams are coming ready to play at their best," said Harrison on the fast pace of his recent game. He said the team's performance against Yuma was a tough win as the offense struggled to maintain control of the game.

Although the Bears playoff run has ended, Harrison will now focus on the college offers to determine where he will play ball next.

"I am looking forward to seeing him succeed, we try to tell him to consider his future and what ever he wants to do, [we] support him," said Carolyn Escalante, Harrison's mother.

She added, "We encourage him to work hard, be humble and keep his grades up, because it's going to take him a lot places."

For Harrison, the game of basketball has provided him an opportunity to further his education after high school. "I know basketball has always been an interest of mine, but I also know school is important and what I want to pursue. My main focus is to go into the medical field and being a physical therapist or in sports medicine,"



Coolidge High School Bears Point Guard Nickolas Harrison takes on two defenders, during a playoff game against Yuma Catholic on Mar. 9. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

said Harrison.

His father Danny Harrison said, "He's always played basketball since he was 12-years-old, he's always had an interest in the sport." Danny said his son has made a remarkable come back, after having torn his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), putting the shooting guards season on hold.

In addition to being a standout on the court, Terry Willis a Tribal Education Department Student Advisor said he continues to excel in his academics. "It has been a pleasure to know Nick. Not only is he a great athlete, but he has also been dedicated in his four-years at Coolidge High School," said Willis.

Much of Harrison's

recognition off the court is receiving the student of the month outstanding character award in February and the Chief Azul Award in 2019. Willis added that Harrison also commits time to helping his local district and has an interest in the culture of the Community.

**More on Page 3**

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**Huhugam Heritage Center: "O'otham Distances Near and Far" on Page 5**

# GRIC Booster Shot Vaccination Event

**Save the Date!**

# March 20, 2021

## Did you receive DOSE 1 of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the 2/20 GRIC Community Vaccination Event?

- The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is a two (2) DOSE vaccine.
- You can return for DOSE 2 of the Moderna vaccine on:

**Saturday, March 20, 2021**

Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park

Chandler, AZ

**9 am to 3 pm**

*This event is for GRIC members and GRIC Essential Employees who have received DOSE 1 of the Moderna vaccine.*

***Please bring your COVID-19 Vaccination card (that you received with your first dose) to the 3/20 vaccination event.***



**FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT COVID-19, GO TO [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://grhc.org/hub) OR CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079**



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**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Monica Antone**

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# Rep. Deb Haaland Confirmed as Secretary of Interior

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

For the first time in the history of the Department of Interior, a Native American will lead the agency as Secretary of Interior. In a historic Senate vote, 51-40, New Mexico Representative Deb Haaland, was officially confirmed as the 54th Secretary of Interior on March 15.

Haaland, who is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna Tribe located west of Albuquerque also refers to herself as a 35th generation New Mexican.

This isn't the first time Haaland has made history. Three years ago, she was one of two Native American women elected to serve in the House of Representatives.

"I look forward to what the future holds and I'm excited to continue my service for all our families," Haaland said in a post on her Twitter account.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis congratulated Haaland on her confirmation. "Today is an historic day for Indian Country as Deb Haaland has been confirmed

Secretary of Interior."

He echoed her signature phrase, for everyone to "Be Fierce," in their support for Haaland in her new seat in the President's cabinet.

"Rep. Haaland has been a close friend of the Gila River Indian Community and she is uniquely qualified to act in the best interests of tribes across the country," said Lewis.

He commended her on the confirmation and saying the Community is ready to begin working with her on several issues as Secretary of the Interior.

In a press release from her office, Haaland highlighted her tenure in Congress. She said, "As a volunteer, activist, and organizer for more than twenty years, it was my proudest professional moment to be elected as one of the first two Native American Women to serve in Congress."

In her farewell address to Congress, Haaland said, "I'm humbled to have spent the last two years in this chamber, where I proudly served New Mexico, alongside my colleagues past



Deb Haaland attends a groundbreaking for a Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. on Sept 21, 2019. Roberto Jackson/GRIN

and present in the New Mexico delegation."

Haaland acknowledged the long history of Native Americans who have called "The Land of Enchantment," home for many generations. In Congress, Haaland focused on addressing climate change, environmental and economic justice, and creating resources to help track cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous women.

While working in Congress she supported, The Not Invisible Act, The PROGRESS for Indian

Tribes Act, The Native American Business Incubators Act and the Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee Act.

Her most recent work was im support of the COVID relief bill for millions Americans in need of assistance.

Haaland said, "Though I am excited to become the first Native American cabinet secretary in history, I'm also sad to leave [this] chamber."

## From Front Page

Harrison said participation in sports events has been a family tradition, with many of his siblings having played sports in high school. "I grew up playing every sport and basketball, which I liked a lot, I've been playing since I was 12-years-old and all

of my siblings have played sports in high school."

"He's gotten offers from six schools, some of them in and out of state. We are all proud of him and how far he has come after the injury last year," said Danny. He added, that Harrison is a role model to his Community and that above all the education that

comes with playing basketball is a representation of his hard work and commitment.

Right- Harrison goes in for a lay-up during a playoff game against Yuma Catholic, where they defeated the visiting team 59-55 on Mar. 9. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



## Submittal

Donna-Kisto Jones

It has been a year since our father has gone to be with his heavenly father and at the time, we needed to get our thanks out to all of you who were there for us. We apologize for the late "Thank You." Our family would like to thank all of you who helped us during our time of grief in the loss of our father who was a World War II veteran in the Air Force and was 90-years old when he went home to be with the Lord after having a cardiac arrest (not the COVID-19

illness) on March 11, 2020. There are so many kind hearted, compassionate people who came from the Tohono O'otham Nation, Salt River and here in our local communities to assist with the preparation of the wake and funeral services. We thank the District 2 and District 4 staff, Gila River Police Department, Gila River EMT's, Paul Smith, Rev. Truett Johns, Rev. Eric Gibbs, Mercy-Gilbert Hospital, Gravediggers, Sarah Lucas, Ann-Lucas Stewart, Ann Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Antone, Darren Morago, Ira H. Hayes Post 84, Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51, Paul Shorthair, Jewel Whitman, Nicholas

Lewis, June Shorthair, Choirs: Maricopa Colony Presbyterian, Sacaton Baptist Church, Clarence Garcia and Group, Hector Rocha, Michelle & Marietta Ray, Gospel Road, who sang at the graveside, Clifton Pablo who assisted with Dad "Last Ride" to the cemetery. If we forgot to mention you, you know who you are and what your contribution(s) were. Thank you for your encouraging words, prayers, flowers and food. May God richly bless you. Dad lived a good life and is safe in the arms of God, but he is truly missed. With our Love & Prayers, the family of Everett Frank Kisto.



# Additional COVID Vaccination Events

## M A R C H 2 0 2 1

Walk in, no appointment required.

March 16, 2021  
District 1 Service Center  
9am - 3pm

March 18, 2021  
District 4 Service Center  
9am - 3pm

March 17, 2021  
District 2 Service Center  
9am - 3pm

March 23, 2021  
District 5 Service Center  
9am - 3pm

March 24, 2021  
District 7 Service Center  
9am - 3pm

### THOSE ELIGIBLE

- GRIC Tribal Enrolled members 18+ years old (includes GRIC urban members) AND 18+ years old residing in the boundaries of GRIC
  - GRIC Tribal Enrolled members, please bring your tribal identification to vaccination site.
  - 18+ years old residing in the boundaries of GRIC, please provide proof of residency i.e. mail with name and address indicated.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation for individuals residing within GRIC boundaries, call (520) 562-3321 ext. 1384 to schedule your transportation as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at (520) 550-6079



**FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT COVID-19, GO TO [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://www.grhc.org/hub)  
OR CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079**

## O’otham Distances Near and Far

Ever wonder why O’otham point with their heads, and lips? For that possibility, we will have to take a giant leap backward in time, before modern conveniences. Imagine mom sitting under the va’tho weaving her basket. She instructed her daughter to bring more cattail for her weaving. “Him ko ‘e bekai heg udvak vuḍa, thoakam amai.” (Go bring another bundle of cattail and set it down there.) As she instructed her daughter, she did not want to release tension from her hands in weaving the basket to point, so she had used her head and lips to point. She most likely, held a splint of devil’s claw in her mouth, in preparation for the next stitch.

If we examine the distance more closely, we see that she said “amai” (there) away from her. If she wanted the bundle of cattail close to her would have said “i:ya” (close by). So, now we read that “i:ya” means (close by) and “amai” means (there), away from an O’otham at a distance. Another form of close is “mia” (near, next to). If mom had wanted the bundle of cattail right next to her, she would have instructed her daughter “Pt ‘o ŋimiabithk thaiwañ.” (Set it down next to me.)

These are three examples of (there, close by and next to) and can still be spoken today. Now, we will come back forward to our present time. Did you ever have to ‘dispatch’ an intrusive ‘critter’ in your house? Back in the day, when we lived in our sandwich style home, it was not uncommon to find certain ‘critters’ inside our home. After we had dispatched a large scorpion, we were instructed by mom, “M gu hu bekai heg nakshel koli thap!” (Take the scorpion over there to the fence!). We read that “gu hu” means (at a

greater distance) away from a place. In that case “gu hu” was the distance from the house to the fence, which was about fifty-yards.

Another time, a ko’i (rattlesnake) had crawled behind our firewood box. Once again, we had dispatched ko’i, before we removed the carcass from the house. Grandma had instructed us, “Gam g hu ‘ia’wua ko’i shai thap!” (Throw away the rattler way over there into the bushes!) In that case, we had left our yard entirely and took the dispatched ko’i into the desert at a great distance from our house. We read that “gam g hu” means far away. In that instance “gam g hu” meant a quarter-mile walk into the desert.

In this last example of “at a great distance,” one of our cousins had attended boarding school at Sherman near Riverside, California. The grownups often spoke of him and said. Gaḍ hu mamshchamtham Wesley, Mondelai thap.” (Far away, out of sight, Wesley is attending school in California). We have read about distances that separates an O’otham from objects and persons from near, far, and far away in the distance out of sight. These are only a few examples of distances.

Practice saying these phrases in your everyday lives. Speak with an Elder or Speaker and see what other phrases for distances are possible. Phrases may be slightly different between the villages. The word search will challenge your memory of distances in O’otham.

A special Thank You for the Vah-Ki District Elders for sharing their knowledge of O’otham Ŋeo’ok which made this article possible.

**Answers to puzzle can be found on page 6.**



### Distances in O’otham, match the phrases with their picture!

I ‘va:k!, thaiwañ i:ya!



Viappoi gam g hu haichu ñeidakuḍ hekaj.



Vachvi heg ‘e shoiga mia vakonakuḍ!



Huai am oimeḍ gm hu thoa’ag thap.



Sap ha thoa:in heg huasa’a amai gegosthakuḍ tha:m.



Manth ‘o me: gam g hu nolavthakuḍ wui.



## AOPPYC Workshops Sharpen Talent and Community Knowledge for Youth

Kyle Knox

The Akimel O’odham/ Pee-Posh Youth Council launched its second series of youth workshops in February with the final session concluding March 27. The workshops support up-and-coming and experienced youth artists while also supporting healthy interaction during the pandemic. Youth input from the 2020 Akimel O’odham/ Pee-Posh Youth Conference led to the workshop topics based on what youth want to learn.

“The workshops present a great opportunity for youth to learn or develop a skill while also interacting with one another and working with local artisans,” said Michael Preston, Youth Coordinator.

It is encouraged for all youth to sign-up beforehand to participate in the art workshops.

Preston recruited local Community artisans to facilitate the workshops to help youth learn how each facilitator found success with their craft or area of expertise. For this series, the workshop topics include clay pottery making, painting, necklace beading, social media branding training, yarn weaving, and concluding with a “Close Up” workshop. Each youth who participate will receive an “art kit” before the workshop. The kits consist of all the materials necessary to create the topic of the workshop, including clay, paint, paintbrushes, yarn, and beads.

Clarice Johnson attended the first workshops last year and is attending more this year. “I had previously joined the beading workshop last year, and it changed my life,” said Johnson. “After the workshop, I got more



The AOPPYC will host a series of workshops on various topics with Community youth, such as the one pictured above with District 7 artist Paul Molina. Screenshot by Kyle Knox/GRIN

beading supplies, and now I make earrings in my spare time.”

Jada Young regularly attends the workshops and recently attended a painting workshop led by Paul Molina. Young said, “It was so cool, we sketched a

sunflower and then painted it onto a canvas. It turned out so nice, and I had a great time.”

The workshops will conclude with a one-day “Close Up” for high school-aged youth. The program explains the GRIC

constitution, governmental branches and structure, tribal sovereignty, and Community planning and decision making. This year’s Close Up session will challenge participants to consider a Community response to the pandemic and how they

would approach it.

Parents, guardians, and youth interested in signing up for the remaining workshops, can do so by visiting [AOPPYC.org](http://AOPPYC.org) or by emailing [youthcouncil@gric.nsn.us](mailto:youthcouncil@gric.nsn.us).

# Residents at Caring House Receive Lifelike Robotic Pets

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

On March 8, residents at Gila River Health Care's Caring House Skilled Nursing Facility received some unique gifts from the Gila River Health Care's Behavioral Health Services and the Caring House's Recreation Therapy Department staff, who delivered 45 robotic pets to the residents at the Caring House.

The life-like animals were created by Ageless Innovation, a company

that has designed "Joy for All Companion Pets" specifically for elder loved ones. The battery-operated pets feature realistic fur, sounds and motions that provide a low maintenance alternative to the real pets, while offering comfort and companionship.

Priscilla Foote, Chief Behavioral Health Officer discussed the affects of robotic pets through studies and research, finding that individuals who had daily interactions with the robotic pet seemed to improve in

their mental well-being. "The pets are a way to provide interaction and comfort when people might be feeling isolated or lonely," said Foote.

With more isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, sales of the pets have increased. GRHC Behavioral Health Services was able to purchase thirty dogs and fifteen cats from Joy for All with grant dollars received from the Gila River Indian Community's Tobacco Tax and Health Care Fund.

"They were a tremendous hit! Bringing forth smiles and laughter to our residents," said Alicia Gonzales, Activity Director for the Caring House, "you could hear the sounds of meowing cats and barking dogs everywhere." She said they have already begun to see how happy the elders are with their new pets, "It was truly an amazing opportunity to be part of this experience, presenting something to our residents that I'm sure they will be forever grateful."



A resident of the Caring House poses with the robotic pets, that are meant to improve the mental health and wellness of elders. Photo courtesy Paul Molina/GRHC

## National Vietnam Veterans Day

 **March 29, 2021** 

### WELCOME HOME

Vietnam Veterans Day commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families and is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home more than 40 years ago.

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, signed into law in 2017, designates March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The staff of the Veteran & Family Services Office (VFSO) of Gila River Indian Community would like to say "Welcome Home" to those men and women that served in our military during the Vietnam War Era.

Let us remember those military heroes of this community that gave the ultimate sacrifice during that war and those that returned home to their families but leaving us later in life. Remember and Honor!

The Veteran & Family Services Office is committed to assist the Veterans of Gila River Indian Community, their Families and Beneficiaries by providing information and assistance in securing their entitled benefits as provided for by the Gila River Indian Community, the State and Federal Laws.

**Veteran & Family Services Office**  
291 W. Casa Blanca Road, Bldg#1  
Sacaton, Arizona  
520-562-3389



Distances in O'otham, match the phrases with their picture! SOLUTION!

I 'va:k!, thaiwañ i:ya!

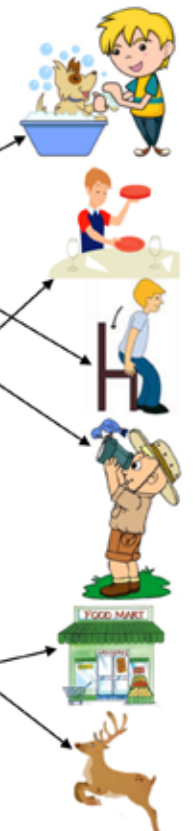
Viappoi gam g hu haichu ñeidakud hekaj.

Vachvi heg 'e shoiga mia vakonakud!

Huai am oimed gm hu thoa'ag thap.

Sap ha thoa:in heg huasa'a amai gegosthakud tha:m.

Manth 'o me: gam g hu nolavthakud wui.



## Gila River Indian Community

# VOTER REGISTRATION IS OPEN

**DEADLINE: March 24, 2021, 5 pm**

Contact your District Judge TODAY:

**DISTRICT #1 Judge:**  
Victoria Quintero, (480) 242-7056

**DISTRICT #4 Judge:**  
Sharon Miguel, (520) 610-0670

**DISTRICT #5 Judge:**  
Verna Sunna (480) 737-1584

**DISTRICT #6 Judge:**  
Lorina Allison (480) 404-5184

For the  
Gila River Indian Community  
2021 Community Council  
Election, May 4, 2021  
In Districts 1, 4, 5 & 6

**Tribal Elections office @**  
**(520) 562-9735**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
SACATON BRANCH

## Open Positions

### Part-Time Positions:

- Computer Lab Specialist
- Discovery Lab Specialist
- Games Room Specialist

### Full-Time Positions:

- Program Director
- Health & Physical Education Director



We are looking for future teammates that enjoy working with youth & teens, excited to share their skills and talents, able to work as a team and work to accomplish our team goals!

For more information call us at : (520) 562-3890 / Email soyet.antone@bgcgric.org

Scan Here to Apply



Visit Us on Facebook:



# SAVE THE DATE



SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES:  
**GILA RIVER INDIAN  
COMMUNITY VIRTUAL  
SUMMIT**

**SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2021  
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**MORE INFORMATION  
COMING SOON!**



Find support at [SesameStreetinCommunities.org](https://www.SesameStreetinCommunities.org)



**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
GRADUATION STOLE**

THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT will provide students with a honorary stole to wear during graduation ceremonies. Student must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community and graduating from:

- High School
- Vocational Schools
- Community Colleges
- Universities

Please contact your K-12 Student Advisor at Coolidge High School, Coolidge Alternative Program, Casa Grande High School, Betty Fairfax High School, Vista Grande High School, Tempe Unified School District, and Chandler Unified School District. Student Advisors have identified graduating students.

University and Community College graduates please contact your Student Advisor with Student Services at (520) 562-3316.

Parents of Boarding Schools, please contact Ivy Naminyha at (520) 562-3662.

Please contact the Tribal Education Department if you are not funded through the Scholarship Program or do not have a K-12 Student Advisor located at your school.

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THERE IS NO PICK UP OPTION. ALL STOLES WILL BE MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENTS.**

For more information or questions, please call: (520) 562-3662




## Alluvion Communications

Alluvion Communications offers a suite of mission-critical enterprise communications solutions that are always smart, fast, and reliable. Our bespoke services introduce service provider options to markets with our own unique network and local network operations center.

Alluvion Communications is a subsidiary of Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. and is 100% GRIC owned. Incorporated in 2006, Alluvion began as an HPBX CLEC. Today, Alluvion has grown to become a provider of enterprise fiber, data, and voice services. Our fiber network continues to grow throughout Pinal and Maricopa Counties.

Job creation, network expansion, and 24/7 local support are among the many benefits Alluvion provides to the Gila River Indian Community. As our network grows, so does our team! We work with community entities to recruit local talent and offer training and employment to GRIC members.

To learn more, visit [www.alluvion.net/blog](https://www.alluvion.net/blog) and follow us on social media.

## Alluvion Provides Technical Support & Training for GRIC Elders



Alluvion Communications is developing training materials for GRIC elders who are using Amazon Fire 7 tablets and WebEx to host virtual meetings. Tune in to GRBC TV to view our training videos or visit [www.alluvion.net/GRIC](https://www.alluvion.net/GRIC) to view videos on demand!

Our network operations center has created a dedicated support line to assist elders with their tablet and WebEx needs.

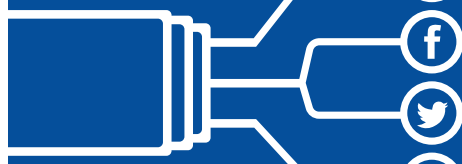
Call us at (520) 796-4784





## Alluvion Expanding Fiber Network into Casa Grande, AZ



Alluvion is expanding our fiber network into Casa Grande to address the city's growing need for fast and reliable enterprise internet service. Read more about the project on our blog!

[www.alluvion.net/blog](https://www.alluvion.net/blog)



-  [www.alluvion.net](https://www.alluvion.net)
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# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March 3, 2021

## ACTION SHEET

Community Council; P.O. 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 3, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:01 a.m.

## INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman James De La Rosa

## ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4-Vacant

D5- Thomas White

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

NEW BUSINESS #2 AND #3, AND DISPENSE RESOLUTION #8

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #2, #5, AND #6, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #3 THROUGH #7, AND #9, ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #4 AND #5

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

## PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction-Elizabeth Bohnee, Finance Director

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller and Elizabeth Bohnee

MS. BOHNEE INTRODUCED HERSELF AND PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER EDUCATION AND WORK HISTORY. GOVERNOR LEWIS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS WELCOMED MS. BOHNEE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

2. Introduction-Laurie Thomas Department of Community Services

Presenters: Suzanne Jones and Laurie Thomas  
MS. LAURIE THOMAS PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER WORK HISTORY. GOVERNOR LEWIS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MS. THOMAS ON HER NEW POSITION

## REPORTS

\*1. Blackwater Community School GRIC Construction Grant Report: Quarter 1

Presenters: Jagdish Sharma and Wendall Joe  
ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services First Quarter Report

Presenter: Diana Lopez Jones and Jeffrey Thomas

ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. FY2020 Annual Performance Report (APR) Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES)

Presenter: Trina Fasthorse

## REPORT HEARD

4. COVID-19 Update

Presenters: Bruce Harvey, Candalorian Preston, Laurie Thomas, Roberto Jackson, Chief Timothy Chavez, Dr. Anthony Santiago

## REPORT HEARD

>5. Saint Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Education Allocation 1st Quarter Report for School Year 2020-2021

Presenter: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter  
ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. Head Start Monthly Report – January 2021

Presenter: Carolina Kelley  
ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. CY 2020 Office of the General Counsel Annual Report (Executive Session)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy, Ronald Rosier, Javier Ramos, Sunshine Whitehair, Rebecca Hall, Casaundra Wallace  
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council January 2021 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Melvin S. Sanderson and Gaming Commission Board

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report for January 2020 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Kenneth Manuel and the Interim Oversight and Planning Committee

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation Annual Report FY 2020 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Teresa Mandelin  
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

## RESOLUTIONS

\*1. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement For Aging Services And Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity For The Limited Purpose Of Arbitration And Enforcement Of Any Arbitration Award Between The State Of Arizona, Acting By And Through Its Department Of Economic Security And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Community Services Department (G&MSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with the additional information and a memorandum to be provided; H&SSC concurs in addition to the correction to the resolution title)

Presenter: Laurie Thomas

## APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Elm Tree Advisors V, LLC For Fiscal Year 2021 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

## APPROVED

>3. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Social Services Department To Submit A Grant Application To The United States Department Of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs, Office For Victims Of Crime Fiscal Year 2020 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)

Presenter: Trina Hart

## ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The Agreement Of October 1, 2020 Between The Gila River Indian Community And Lippes Mathias Wexler & Friedman, LLP (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for

approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenter: Javier Ramos and Will Antone III  
ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Regional Fire And Rescue, Inc. Of Pinal County For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Kathy Garcia  
ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Coolidge And Gila River Indian Community For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Kathy Garcia  
ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The City Of Phoenix For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs) Presenter: Kathy Garcia

ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Chandler And Gila River Indian Community For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs) Presenter: Kathy Garcia

## DISPENSED

>9. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Authorizes Reverend Steve Cartwright Of The Siloam Indian Baptist Church To Reside On The Siloam Indian Baptist Church Grounds Within The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Steve Cartwright  
ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## ORDINANCES

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Council Secretary Declaration of Vacancy (Advertise for 60 days; subject to the Code of Conduct)

Presenter: Community Council  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY AND ADVERTISE THE POSITION

>2. Gila River Farms FY21 1st Quarter Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Stephanie Saucedo-Manuel  
TABLED AT THE APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Report Gila River Farms (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Stephanie Saucedo-Manuel  
TABLED AT THE APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Governor's 6th Annual Education Summit (ESC forwards to Council under New Business as FYI and for placement on the consent agenda)



**Action Sheets Continued from page 8**

Presenters: Isaac Salcido; Stephen Lewis  
 APPROVED AT THE APPROVAL OF AGENDA >5. Introduction of CARES ACT Tutor Program Tutoring Staff (ESC forwards to Council under New Business as FYI and for placement on the consent agenda)  
 Presenter: Isaac Salcido  
 6. Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Board of Directors Declaration of Two (2) Vacancies (EDSC

forwards to Council to declare the two (2) vacancies and advertise for 60 days subject to the Code of Conduct)  
 Presenter: Shannon White  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCIES

AND ADVERTISE THE POSITIONS MINUTES  
 1. February 3, 2021 (Regular)  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE (Special)  
 2. February 4, 2021 MOTION MADE AND

SECOND TO APPROVE 3. February 17, 2021 (Regular)  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS ~LSC Work Session on Thursday, March 4, 2021  
 ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:01 P.M.  
 \* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)  
 > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

**A Message From Phoenix Rising**

On behalf of Phoenix Rising FC, Arizona's top professional soccer franchise, thank you for allowing us to come into your community and build a stadium at your home on the Gila River Indian Community.  
 Established in 2016, Phoenix Rising plays in the USL Championship, the largest Division 2 pro soccer league in the world.

Because the team plays the world's game - soccer, our squad consists of players from all around the globe: Jamaica, Ghana, Liberia and New Zealand, to name a few. We also have players from all over the United States - Montana, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Florida. The group comes together each season, March to November, to compete for the USL Championship.

Prior to the first day of training at the new stadium the front office employees, coaches and players gathered at Rawhide to learn more about the Gila River Indian Community, its history of peace and hospitality and the water rights your people fought to win back. The entire team is excited to join with such warriors! Phoenix Rising looks forward to growing together in the future while honoring your

rich history. The team hopes to earn your support through victories on the field and by supporting your community off the pitch.  
 One of the team's favorite aspects of learning the history of your people was the original name you gave to South Mountain - Greasy Mountain. Our club often works with charity organizations to plant trees in the community and support the underprivileged through

the design and sale of custom Phoenix Rising t-shirts. Sales from these shirts go to benefit our charities and community organizations. Phoenix Rising would love to take a stab at creating a "Greasy Mountain" t-shirt, with proceeds benefiting the Gila River Indian Community organization. This project would serve as the first in a long line of successful partnerships between Phoenix Rising

and the Gila River Indian Community.  
 The first match of our 2021 season is scheduled to coincide with the completion of our stadium, on or around Saturday, May 1. If you would like to learn more about the club, please call 623-594-9606 or visit PHXRisingFC.com. Rising is also on Facebook (PHXRisingFC), Twitter (@PHXRisingFC), Instagram @PHXRising and YouTube.

**Reflection on Years of Service to the Community and Thank You to Officer Uribe**

**Submittal**  
 Donna-Kisto Jones

**Years of Service**  
 It has been a little over a year since I have been impeached/retired and had some time to reflect on my life and what it meant to have been employed with the various entities within the Gila River Indian Community. I have been employed with the Sacaton Indian Hospital (which is now the Gila

River Health Care Corporation), as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Pima Agency (Real Estate Office), however the majority of my employment has been with the Gila River Tribal Court (Akimel O'otham Loditha Kud Ke') since 1970. My 49 years of employment has been a wonderful experience and I want to take this opportunity to THANK all of you who put your trust in me when you voted

me in as Associate Judge and then when I was elected Chief Judge. My dream became a reality when, you the Gila River Indian Community members place me in that position. When I begin my employment with the Tribal Courts in 1970, I had always voiced that one day I would like to be Chief Judge for the Community. I had two mentors God rest their souls (the late William Roy Rhodes and the late Rodney Blaine

Lewis) encouraged me, giving me the information I would need for this to happen. My family also supported me but I can give the most credit to God and His mercy upon me and blessing me. My dream was fulfilled and nothing more should I want. May God Bless All of the Community and Urban Communities. My condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones during this COVID Pandemic and

others that were not COVID related. With my Love and Prayers for all as we walk in the harmony with God and each others. Proverb 3:5-6.  
**To Officer Uribe**  
 Kudos to Officer Manuel Uribe for assisting me on August 11, 2020 when I an elder and handicapped had a flat tire as I was headed to Casa Grande. In the 112-115 degree weather, Officer Uribe did not hesitate

to take my scooter out of the back of my vehicle so he could get the spare tire out and he changed my tire. Officer Uribe went above and beyond his call of duty and I appreciate that he was there for me. I pray God bless Officer Uribe for his compassion and kindness for a Job Well Done. We need more officers like Officer Uribe.

**\*\*NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION\*\***

**PROPOSED REVISION TO TITLE 19 OF THE GRIC CODE ADOPTING 2018 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODES**

The Legislative Standing Committee ("LSC") will be considering the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code adopting the 2018 Editions of the International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Residential Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the Energy Conservation Code, the Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities, the Green Building Code, and the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Code at their regular meeting on **April 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.** A copy of the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code in its entirety is available for review at the Community Council Secretary's Office or by contacting Casaundra Wallace, Senior Assistant General Counsel, at casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn.us.

If you are interested in providing comments on the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code, please attend the scheduled LSC meeting, your Council representative or the LSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720, or provide written comments by email to Casaundra Wallace at casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn.us or by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Casaundra Wallace.

# DOI Hosts Consultation Sessions with Tribal Nations

*“It is a priority of my administration to make respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance.” - President Biden*



**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

For the first time since President Biden took office, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) held a Tribal consultation session on March 10.

The session – part of a week of consultations with Tribal communities around the country – gave Native communities an opportunity to share their unique needs with the DOI.

“What we are trying to do is make sure that all agencies at the Department of Interior such as National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau

of Reclamation and other agencies at DOI are also in these sessions hearing directly from tribal leaders,” said Brian Newland, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, who leads the consultations.

These consultations were a directive set forth by President Biden per an Executive Memo on Jan. 26. President Biden’s memo states: “It is a priority of my Administration to make respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust

consultation with Tribal Nations cornerstones of Federal Indian policy.”

The consultation sessions were authorized under a memorandum under the Biden administration to strengthen nation-to-nation relationships with tribal governments and for future recommendations to improve access to resources for Native people.

According to the memorandum it said, “American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations are sovereign governments recognized under the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions.”

This action is lock in-step with Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments), that requires all executive departments and agencies to engage in regular and meaningful consultation with tribal officials.

“We appreciate the chance to speak directly to leaders with the Department of Interior and the Biden Administration,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “The President promised on the campaign trail that Tribal communities would have a seat at the table and this

shows him keeping that promise.”

Newland said he’s eager to learn about the best practices that many tribal communities have developed to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. “Now that we have been working remotely,” he explained, “How can we incorporate some of that into the consultation process so that it works better and make it more accessible for tribes?”

Newland acknowledged the work of the Community and said, “I really look to being a part of this process with Gila River, and all tribes, whether it is providing economic relief, vaccinations, getting kids back to school.” He expressed his gratitude for the leadership of Governor Stephen Roe Lewis for helping to bring out the best in people during this difficult time.

When the consultation

is complete, the data will provide an extensive report for the federal government and its agencies. In the future tribal input from the consultations will be considered in future policy and decision-making. The final report and its findings will be submitted to President Biden and shared publicly beginning in April.

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### NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice Is Hereby Given that the Directors of Casa Blanca Middle School, Inc. an Arizona non-profit corporation with an address of P.O. Box 10885, Bapchule, Arizona 85121, have approved that the corporation voluntarily dissolve, and that the Board of Directors is now engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the corporation as provided by Arizona law. On December 21, 2020, the Arizona Corporation Commission approved the filing of the Articles of Dissolution.

By:   
Delila Thompson, Board Secretary



**Gila River**  
HEALTH CARE



**THE HUB**  
COVID+FLU Resource Center

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COVID-19 Vaccines & More!**  
Visit [GRHC.ORG/HUB](http://GRHC.ORG/HUB)

# GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

Gila River Health Care’s  
Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

## CLOSED

Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

### HKMH PHARMACY HOURS

FRIDAY, APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> ..... CLOSED  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> ..... 8:30AM - MIDNIGHT  
 SUNDAY, APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> ..... 12:00PM - 10:00PM

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 Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.



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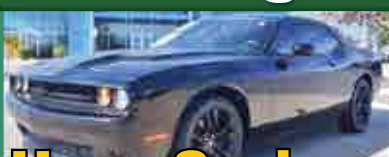
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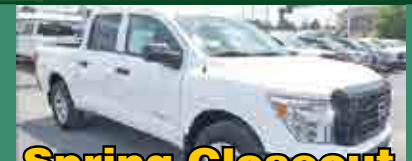
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