



## GRIC Observes Inaugural MMIP Awareness Day May 5

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

On Wednesday, May 5, Community Members from everywhere sported red shirts, hats, and accessories to acknowledge Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Awareness Day. Additionally, the Community hosted its first MMIP virtual Walk/Run, challenging all to run or walk 1.5 miles while wearing the color red to honor those lost or missing.

“Today, I will be wearing red to honor the lives of all missing and murdered people,” said Governor Stephen Roe Lewis in a video message. “We can no longer be silent about this growing epidemic, which has impacted countless lives across Indian country and right here in our Community.”

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone appeared in a video posted on the Community’s Facebook page. “By bringing awareness to this issue, we can shed light on the injustice to many families that have endured and also create a safer indigenous



A billboard with signage displaying the Community’s support for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day is on view along Interstate 10. Jaime Jackson/CPAO

community,” she said. Lt. Gov. Antone also encouraged everyone to join the MMIP Walk/Run “in honor of those that are missing or for the missing heartbeat of a loved one.”

Shannon Redbird, Community Relations Specialist with CPAO, monitored everyone

participating and felt moved by the stories and testimonials shared that day using the hashtag #GRICMMIP. “We have done various events in the Community, but this one that we have seen the most outpouring of support for,” said Redbird.

The Community’s

involvement for its first MMIP event was remarkable, with about 700 people registering for the Walk/Run. Within the first four hours, the event saw 350 registrations peaking to 500 at the end of the first day. Of that 700, a large number registered from out of state as well.

While the walk/run was a success, the work will continue after May 5. Since 2019, the Community has dedicated efforts to creating improved public safety systems, policies, and protocols to address MMIP issues locally.

Sunshine Whitehair, Senior Assistant General Counsel at GRIC Office of General Counsel, authored the Community Council resolution declaring May 5 as MMIP Awareness Day. Whitehair shared that May 5 was emotional for her and her team. She described her pride seeing the movement receiving the awareness it deserves.

Whitehair shared that since 2019 GRIC established a multi-departmental MMIP Response Team that has created collaborated support systems and improved multi-jurisdictional communications to investigate, solve or bring closure to MMIP cases. To date, the GRIC Response Team has attended multiple

*Continued on page 5*

## District 3 High School Basketball Player Signs with Northland Pioneer College

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

Four-years in the making, a hoop dream finally came to fruition for a high school student from District 3. Nicolas Harrison, who played for Coolidge High School, has officially announced his commitment to play basketball and attend Northern Pioneer College in Holbrook, Arizona.

Coming off of a successful senior year playing basketball, Harrison made the announcement with family at the CHS Bears gymnasium on May 8.

“There were a lot of schools to choose from. It was a hard decision, but I felt this one stood out to me the most,” said Harrison on his decision to play basketball at NPC.

Harrison thanked his family and parents for supporting his interest in playing basketball, which has been his principal passion since he was a young boy. He also expressed his gratitude to CHS staff and Tribal Education Student Services staff for their support in school and on the court.

“I am very proud of him. [He] has a very good talent with basketball,” said Corrinne



Nicolas Harrison (center), with parents, holds-up a Northland Pioneer College shirt, where he will play collegiate level basketball and attend school this fall. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Escalante, Harrison’s grandmother, who called him a “good kid” who has “come a long way,” and who has never been afraid to work hard to follow his dream.

“This is a huge day for Nick,” said Ben Armstrong, CHS Principal. “[You] have been his support system. I have seen you all at each and every one of his

games,” said Armstrong, speaking to Harrison’s family and friends. The principal emphasized what a rare opportunity it is to play basketball at the college level.

“We are really thankful and blessed that he has chosen a school that is a best fit for him,” said Carolyn Escalante, Harrison’s mother. “There was a lot of family

and community support, even among his teammates and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis,” said Carolyn, who added that Nick’s long hours and weekends in gymnasiums, parks and the backyard, were all meant to foster and support his passion for basketball.

“He decided to stay in Arizona and chose the school that offered

first, a good education and then basketball,” said Danny, Harrison’s father. Danny said his son grew a lot in his last year of high school basketball. “He made a comeback from an injury that he suffered from during his Junior year. He grew a lot in how he was able to analyze the game a little more.”

Harrison said that he looks forward to playing basketball at NPC and the challenge and experiences he can gain from playing basketball at the collegiate level. Aside from basketball, he would like to pursue a degree in the medical field or in physical therapy.

Looking back at his last year in high school, Harrison explained that the pandemic created a lot of adversity. Even so, Harrison expressed pride in the mark he made on the Coolidge basketball team and said he hopes to do the same at NCP.

Between graduation and starting his first year of college, Harrison and the Native Hot Boyz plan to play in the 2021 Native American Basketball Invitational this summer.

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GRTV NEWS Weekly

Recognizing Student Graduates  
on Pages 6-8

CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF  
2021

In recognition of Memorial Day, Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

# CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31, 2021

## HHKMH Pharmacy Hours

**Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** .... 8:30 am – 12 am  
**Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** ..... 12 pm – 10 pm  
**Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** ..... **CLOSED**

For any information on services open during the holiday, please call GRHC's main line (520) 562-3321. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, 6/1/2021. 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**



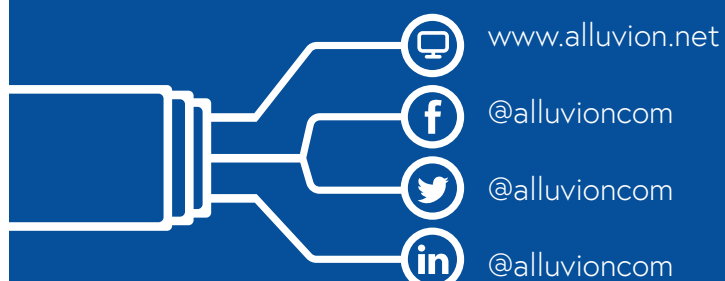
## Alluvion Communications

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.

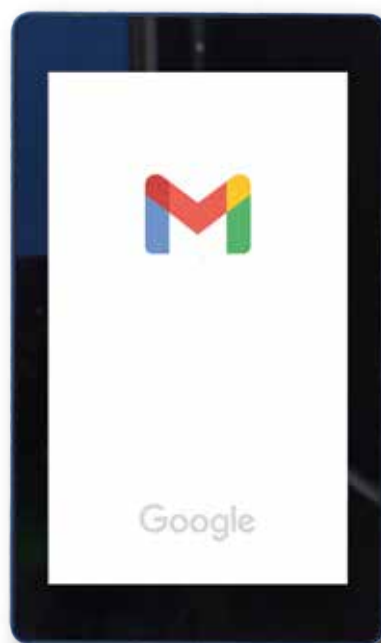
Alluvion Communications is a subsidiary of Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. and is 100% GRIC owned. Incorporated in 2006, Alluvion began as an HPBX CLEC. Today, Alluvion has grown to become a provider of enterprise fiber, data, and voice services. Our fiber network continues to grow throughout Pinal 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](http://www.alluvion.net/blog) and follow us on social media.



## GRIC Elder Tech Training - Learn How to Create Your Own Gmail Account



Alluvion Communications has created a webpage which contains training material for GRIC elders who are using Amazon Fire 7 tablets and WebEx to attend virtual meetings.

The latest addition to our training material is a document providing instruction on how to create your own Gmail account. An email account is required to set up your Kindle Fire 7.

Visit [www.alluvion.net/GRIC](http://www.alluvion.net/GRIC) to view the "Creating a Gmail Account" document to get started.

## Alluvion Bringing Fiber Optic into the Heart of Coolidge, AZ



Alluvion has begun the next phase of our fiber optic network expansion into Coolidge. Our team is constructing laterals off the fiber backbone that was installed around the city in 2020.

Read more about the project on our blog at [www.alluvion.net/blog](http://www.alluvion.net/blog).



Governor  
**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Monica Antone**

Community Council  
Representatives

**District 1**  
Arzie Hogg  
Joey Whitman

**District 2**  
Carol Schurz

**District 3**  
Avery White  
Rodney Jackson

**District 4**  
Jennifer Allison  
Regina Antone-Smith  
Delmar Jones

**District 5**  
Marlin Dixon  
Thomas White  
Brian E. Davis, Sr.  
James De La Rosa

**District 6**  
Anthony Villareal, Sr.  
Terrance B. Evans  
Charles Goldtooth

**District 7**  
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# Gila River Royalty Hosts Presentations for Mental Health Awareness Month

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson will host presentations on multiple topics throughout May in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. The first presentation on May 13 focused on Masculinity and Femininity. Miss Gila River Alyse Marietta served as the co-host of the presentation alongside Jackson.

“Because these conversations are not easy to talk about, this event was a big accomplishment for me,” said Jackson. “These kinds of topics aren’t regularly talked about in the Community.”

The presentation allowed participants to discuss traditional and modern views of gender roles and the expectations that youth may feel have been placed on them by the media and peers. Participants also had a chance to discuss where they first observed gender roles in their lives and how they grew to accept those expectations or to challenge them through life experiences.

Miss Gila River Alyse Marietta said: “The goal of this event was to emphasize that, yes, gender roles are a part of our culture and community, but we shouldn’t feel the need to fit anyone else’s expectations as long as we’re doing our best and giving back to our Community with a happy heart.”



Members of the AOPPYC, Gila River Royalty and mental health professionals, discuss traditional and contemporary gender roles. Kyle Knox/GRIN

In one example, a male participant described discovering a love for cooking and shared how he faced scrutiny growing up. In the end, the individual shared that he came to understand that everyone is different. Furthermore, as long as they are happy and helping their family, they remain confident as a person despite differing views.

Breaking down those expectations was a goal for Jackson, who said, “It made me really happy to talk about how we shouldn’t let the expectations of what a man or woman ‘should be’

affect one’s mental health.”

For their first presentation, both Miss and Jr. Miss Gila River were pleased to provide a safe space for everyone to share insights into their own experiences. Many cited social media as a typical driver for informing youth how men and women should act and look. Social media expectations seem to fuel many pressures that youth encounter, according to the participants.

Due to the potentially serious nature of the conversations, Behavioral Health professionals

from GRHC Behavioral Health Services were also in attendance. Because this topic can be challenging for some, they were present for anyone who felt they might need additional support.

This month, there will be two more presentations. A session on “Virtual Fatigue,” is set for May 20, and a Mental Health Roundtable Discussion with tribal royalty is scheduled for Thursday, May 27.

For more information about the presentations, you can email Gila River royalty and gilariverroyalty@gric.nsn.us

# Blackwater Trading Post Legislation Passes U.S. House

**Gila River Indian News Staff**

On May 13, 2021, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 478, the Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act. This legislation would bring the 55.3 acres where the Blackwater Trading Post is located into trust for the Community.

The House legislation was sponsored by Congressman Tom O’Halloran who stated following the House vote: “Blackwater Trading Post has been an important community site for the Gila River Indian Community for over a hundred years; they have every right to this land, and it is my honor to build upon the efforts of many in the Community

to bring them into trust,” said O’Halloran, a Democrat. “I was humbled to be able to re-introduce this legislation and I am thrilled to move forward with bipartisan, bicameral support.”

The bipartisan vote of 349 to 74 means the legislation now goes to the U.S. Senate for consideration. Companion legislation sponsored by Senators Kelly and Sinema was passed out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and is now ready for consideration by the full Senate. If the House bill is passed in the Senate it will become law following President Biden’s signature. The legislation stalled in the Senate last year, but Governor Lewis and District 1 Representatives Arzie Hogg and

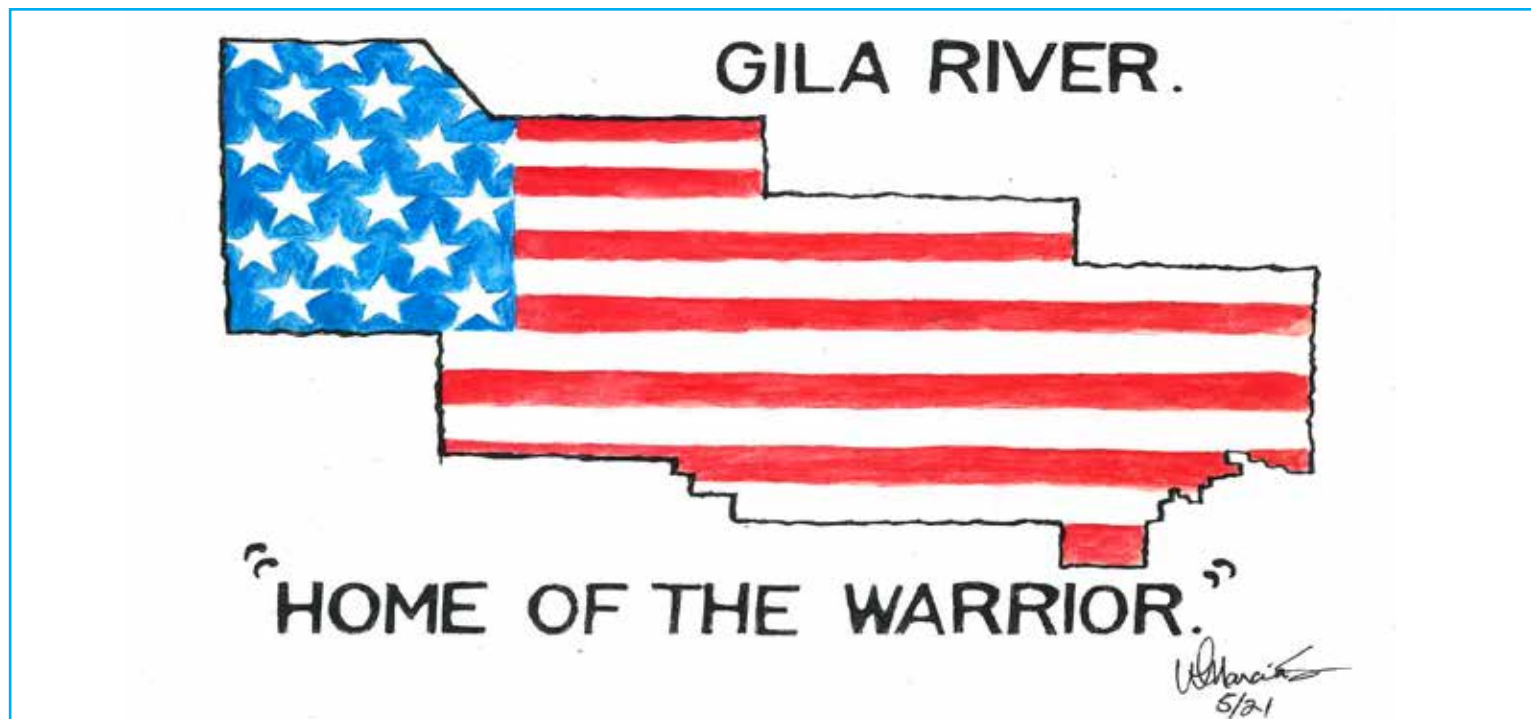
Joey Whitman have continued their advocacy to see these lands with historic and cultural significance returned to the Community’s Reservation.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis applauded House’s early action on this bill. “Passage of the Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act is an important step towards enactment of this legislation,” said Gov. Lewis. “The Gila River Indian Community deeply appreciates Congressman O’Halloran making this legislation a priority and the support of the entire delegation. The Community looks forward to swift action by the Senate so this culturally-important parcel can be taken into trust for our members

residing in District 1.”

The 55 acres in question is bordered on three sides by the Reservation. Placing the acreage in trust will allow the Community to conduct land-use plans for the site and for adjacent property.

Established nearly a century ago, the Blackwater Trading Post operated until 2010, when the family ownership group sold the property to the Community. Post-sale, the Community recovered more than 1,000 items that had been traded at the Post and stored in its on-site museum. These culturally significant items were recovered and now reside in the Community’s Huhugam Heritage Center.



# TOGETHER LETS END THIS GROWING EPIDEMIC!



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Missing & Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Walk/Run #GRICMMIP



# Kai Chuk'lik Mashath – O'otham Haichu Ñeo'ok

As our Community returns to a certain degree of normalcy, we will once again speak O'otham haichu ñeo'ok not spoken during the stay-at-home order. As service centers and businesses begin to open up, one phrase we will no longer hear is "Hath ku:ch eñ thashgach!" (We're closed today!). Eventually, things will return to pre-pandemic conditions, as our Community members adapted to the challenges brought upon us by the emergency.

As we anticipate our Tribal assistance payments and income tax refunds, a few phrases we will hear spoken are, "Tho hi:m ko bei eñ cha:gi!" (I'm going to pick up my check!). Some O'otham have home mail delivery, while others have to visit the post office. Another exciting phrase is, "Tho bango wi: ko pa:tsh eñ cha:gi!" (I'm going to the bank to cash my check!). Most O'otham prefer cold, hard cash in their wallets. Some modern O'otham have direct deposit, or per capita debit card and rarely visit the bank in person anymore.

One thing is for certain, we will take our vehicles to get checked and serviced. We will hear O'otham proclaim aloud, "Ñt 'o 'i beich hejel memaltham k ga hu 'o vua tho 'o kekch." (I'll take my car there and leave it to be fixed.) This completed, in preparation of our daily commute back to work, as we close our home

offices. One phrase that is always exciting to hear is, "Nolavth vechich hejel memaltham!" (I'm buying a new car!) Some O'otham will finally get to drive across the Rez and visit their hahajuñ (relatives).

In time, O'otham will once again return to the malls and retail outlets in large numbers. A few useful phrases are, "Sha'i je'keli:th!" (Move aside!), said when your kids or others get in the way. The other is, "Bo sha a'apa!" (I'm going to try this on!), said when trying on apparel or footwear. Of course, we have been away from the retail outlets for a long time now, one phrase we will often speak is "Nap tha ma: chu:?" (Did you find it?). One final phrase that never gets old is, "Tho vo:p thoth gegos!" (Let's go eat!), said when going out to our favorite restaurants.

We encourage you to practice saying these haichu ñeo'ok and speak O'otham in your everyday lives. Speak with an Elder or Speaker and learn how to say the phrases. Some phrases may be slightly different between the villages. The word match will test your knowledge of O'otham haichu ñeo'ok.

A special Thank You to Vah-ki ch Onk Akimel Kekel for sharing their knowledge of O'otham Haichu Ñeo'ok, which made this article possible.

Answers to words matching puzzle can be found on page. 13.



## O'otham Haichu Ñeo'ok-Match the phrase with its picture!

Ñt 'o 'i beich hejel memaltham k ga hu 'o vua tho 'o kekch.

Tho vo:p thoth gegos!

Bo sha a'apa!

Nolavth vechich hejel memaltham!

Manth 'o me: ko che:gim eth hahajuñ ki: ap!

Tho bango wi: ko pa:tsh eñ cha:gi!



### Continued from front page

state, tribal and federal meetings and trainings regarding MMIP issues, created new or updated current MMIP protocols to improve responses and GRIC department policies to reflect best practices, organized Community department "Call Trees" for immediate notification

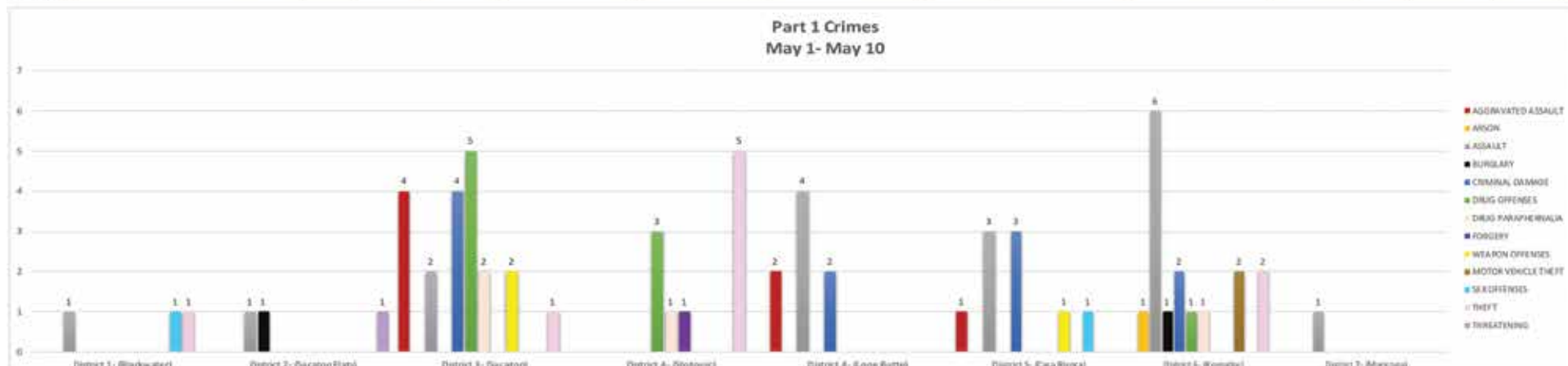
purposes, designed an awareness campaign, and created a specialized team for locating minors, missing individuals, and runaways, which includes a GRPD civilian investigator to serve as a liaison with families and is currently developing a GRIC specific training for first responders and employees, and proposing updates to the Community's Criminal Code concerning

MMIP cases, to include the offense of human trafficking enforceable by law.



## Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

BEAT	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	ARSON	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	DRUG OFFENSES	DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	FORGERY	WEAPON OFFENSES	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	SEX OFFENSES	THEFT	THREATENING	Grand Total
District 1-(Blackwater)				1								1	1	3
District 2-(Sacaton Flats)			1		1									3
District 3-(Sacaton)		4		2		4	5	2		2			1	20
District 4-(Stotonic)							3	1	1				5	10
District 4-(Lone Butte)		2		4		2								8
District 5-(Casa Blanca)		1		3		3				1				9
District 6-(Komatke)			1	6	1			1			2		2	16
District 7-(Maricopa)				1		2								3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

## College Grads



**Chelsea Ann Miles**  
 Ottawa University  
 Master of Arts Degree, School Counseling  
 I would like to make a shout out to my family, who never doubted me for a second, I love you guys. To my friends, colleagues and mentors (where my Head Start peeps), who believed in me and encouraged me, from the bottom of my heart, Thank You.  
 One Love,



**Maria Varelas**  
 Arizona State University  
 Bachelor's of Social Work



**Dallas A. Addison**  
 Georgia State University  
 Bachelor's of Science, Psychology  
 Thank you to my family and thank you God for everything.



**Michelle Marion**  
 Bemidji State University, in Northern Minnesota



**Ashley Thompson**  
 Chandler-Gilbert Community College  
 Associates of Arts, Associates of Science-Nursing  
 Thank you, family, friends, and staff of Tribal Education, for the continuous support!



**Shawn Terry Cortez**  
 College of the Desert  
 Associates of Arts: Liberal Arts Social & Behavioral Sciences  
 Continuing school: California State University, Los Angeles



**Sarah Springer**  
 University of South Carolina  
 Bachelor's of Science  
 Thank you to the Gila River Indian Community, Education Department and Student Services for giving me the opportunity to earn a college degree. With your support, I graduated at the University of South Carolina in the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management with a Bachelor of Science with Honors/Cum Laude. I wore the GRIC graduation sash with pride, honor and gratitude.



**Frankie Hernandez**  
 Arizona State University  
 Bachelor's of science Arizona State University/Health Science



**Nicholas Taylor Salazar**  
 Grand Canyon University  
 Bachelor of Arts, Christian Studies  
 Mane Sape Gila River Indian Community, for supporting me and believing in me.



**Thomas Jacob Cortez**  
 University of California, Riverside  
 Bachelor of Arts, Education  
 Continuing school: University of Southern California  
 Thank you, Gila River Indian Community, and my amazing advisors Danielle Allen and Billy Tewanima, Huge thanks to my parents for making this possible.



**Robin N Jackson**  
 Northern Arizona University  
 Bachelor, Intd. Studies- Public Administration  
 Continuing school: NAU  
 Thank you to my friends, my family, and my community for your endless love and support. We did this together. My strength and determination are guided by the wisdom of the matriarchs before me. My gratitude to you is infinite and endless. Thank you.



**Jasmine Danelle Goulette Reece**  
 Arizona State University, Tempe  
 Bachelor's of Art (Magna Cum Laude)  
 Organization Leadership (Project Management)  
 Masters of Science Organization Leadership, Spring 2022 (Awaiting acceptance into program)



**Danielle L. Pagat**  
 Chamade University of Honolulu  
 Doctor of Psychology, Clinical Psychology  
 Our individual achievements and successes reverberate beyond the self and elevate the collective whole. It is with my deepest gratitude that I offer thanks for the smiles, the conversations, the words of encouragement, and the energy shared. Congratulations to all!



**Linda Paloma Soto**  
 University of Arizona  
 Master of Public Health, Health Services Administration  
 Thank you to my husband, family, and friends, especially Alex for year two graduating with me! Thank you to Joaquin, my grandparents, and the kekel for being the reason why I went back to school and to Dr. Stephanie Carroll. Thank you to Gila River Health Care and the Caring House for bringing me home.



**Cameron Johnson**  
 Arizona State University  
 Bachelor of Education, Special Education/Elementary Education  
 A huge thank you to all of my family and friends for their continued support! I am so excited to be teaching in the Mesa Public Schools in the fall, as an Autism teacher.



**Ashley Nourse**  
 University of Texas at Arlington  
 Masters of Science, Human Resources Management



**Krystal Sheppard-Eppinger**  
 Arizona State University  
 Bachelor of Arts, Organizational Leadership  
 I am truly thankful for the wonderful opportunity through GRIC. I was able to accomplish my dreams with this amazing opportunity and I hope others go for their dreams as well.



**Heather Medicine Bear**  
 Hawaii Pacific University  
 Masters Degree, Public Health  
 This educational journey has enriched my future. Thank you to my husband, my family and GRIC student services for your support.

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

## High School Graduates



**Desiree Lopez**  
New Mexico School for the Arts

Desiree Lopez has been published in the Santa Fe Reporter in 2019 for her photography work and more recently, has been published in an anthology of poems and artwork during the pandemic titled: "Everything Feels Recent When You're Far Away." She plans on taking a gap year before heading off to college next year to work on her artwork, which is inspired by and done with an anime style.



**Joi Monique Johnson**  
The Academies at South Mountain  
We are all so proud of you Joi! Our legacy continues...Mamma & your family



**Lyanna Desbah Gomez**  
Robert McQueen High School  
Feather River College, Quincy California



**Carlos J. Cardenas**  
Imagine Prep Superstition  
We are proud of all your hard work through the years. There have been struggles, but you have managed to get through them. Reach for the stars. Love you, mom & dad.



**Emilio Garcia**  
Casa Grande Union High School  
Congratulations! Four years have come and gone. We have always been so proud of you. Your motivation and self-discipline are just two of your many traits that got you here and will continue to take you even further to achieve your future endeavors. We know that you will make wise choices to continue living your best life. We love you and will always be here for you. Love, Sterling & Kimberly.



**Brianna Chavez**  
Cesar Chavez High School  
Continuing school: South Mountain Community College  
Congratulations, you did it! We are so proud of you and we love you very much - Mom and Dad



**Andrew Siquieros Jr.**  
Imagine Prep  
Continuing school: Central Arizona College  
You did it and we are beyond proud of you!!! We will always be here to love & support you. Love your family.

## College Grads Cont.



**Audreyana C. Yucupicio**  
Tohono O'odham Community College  
Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts  
Congratulations on your accomplishment! We are so proud of you!!! You have become a strong, smart, and beautiful woman. Continue to reach for the stars and accomplish all of your goals you have set for yourself. We will always be here for you! We love you... Papa, Grandma, Fawn and all of your siblings.



**Mia Hernandez**  
Arizona State University  
Bachelor of Applied Science, Applied Science (Graphic Information Technology)  
Thanks to everyone who helped me get here!



**Kelcey Mosley**  
Arizona State University  
Bachelor of Science, Exercise and Wellness

Didn't see your graduate? Or for those who were not able to submit their graduates information for the May 21 issue, we will run a second graduation section in the June 18, 2021 issue of the Gila River Indian News. Remember to fill out the 2021 Graduate Information Form and include a photograph of your graduate to ensure, that he/she, will be featured in the GRIN.  
Thank you and congratulations to all 2021 graduates!



**Joseph Encinas, III**  
Vista Grande High School  
Proud parents of Deanna Encinas and the late Joseph "Sooter" Encinas, Jr. You did it son and your future starts here! You have set a perfect example for your daughter, who is proud to call you Daddy! With love from your sister's and family.



**Brandon A. Nuvamsa**  
Casa Grande Union High School  
I am so proud of you, son. With all the obstacles and challenges you had to surpass, please continue to strive, son! Mom



**Steven Echverria**  
Apollo High School  
Continuing school: Arizona State University  
Congratulations on your accomplishment! We are so proud of you. May there be many more achievements in your future. Keep up the hard work and dedication.  
- Family



**Anthony Subik Antone**  
Hamilton High School  
Continuing school: Northern Arizona University



**Alicia T. Nuvamsa**  
Casa Grande Union High School  
I am very proud of you! Continue to push forward for your future baby! Mom



**Mary Elias**  
McClintock High School  
Continuing school: Cornell University  
Mary's family is very proud of her and wishes her all the luck at Cornell University. We would like to thank Mary's Gila River Outreach Advisor, Kenyen Thompson, for helping her along the way.



**Jacob Daniel Dalgai**  
Payson High School

# High School Graduates Cont.



**Lauryn A. Begay**  
Peirdra Vista High School,  
Farmington, NM  
Continuing school: The University of Oregon  
We are proud of the many things in life, but nothing beats being your parents. Love, mom and dad.



**Damian Xavier Albano**  
Youngker's High School  
Continuing school: Arizona State University  
Damian, we are so proud of your accomplishments this year! We can't wait to see what the future holds for you at ASU. #ForksUp



**Taylor Duran**  
Coolidge High School  
Continuing school: University of Arizona

During the last two years at CHS, Taylor completed CAVIT and is now a Certified Medical Assistant. She will continue her education at U of A majoring in BioChemistry. We are so proud of her and excited for her future endeavors! We love you Taylor!

## Public Notice Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency

Notice of Public Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Hunt Highway Improvement Project – Phase 5

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Pima Agency and the Gila River Indian Community (Community) are releasing this notice in support of an environmental assessment for the proposed Hunt Highway Improvement Project – Phase 5 (project) in District One of the Community. The project would include roadway improvements along portions of Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms Road.

The project proponent, Pinal County Public Works Department, has submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application to the BIA for roadway improvements on Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms Road, which would constitute the final phase of the Hunt Highway Improvement Project. Primary project components would include

acquiring approximately 19 acres of new permanent roadway ROW, realigning the western terminus of the existing Arizona Farms Road, widening approximately 4,200 feet of existing Hunt Highway to match the newly reconstructed roadway dimensions both north and south of the project area, and installing a new light-controlled intersection at Hunt Highway and the realigned Arizona Farms Road.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in January 2023 and be completed in approximately 8 months. No traffic detours would be required. Traffic delays would be short-term and temporary. The grant of easement for ROW, if approved by BIA, would formalize the alignments for both Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms Road within the Community.

The purpose of the project is for Pinal County to complete the final phase of their planned improvements along the Hunt Highway corridor, through the

widening of the existing Hunt Highway alignment and the realignment of Arizona Farms Road.

Hunt Highway both north and south of the project area have been improved and widened to four lanes; however, the older roadway within the project area is only two lanes. The lane reduction in the project area presents a potential safety concern for existing vehicle traffic on Hunt Highway. The project would widen Hunt Highway through the project area to match the new roadway and lane configurations to both the north and south. Additionally, the Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms Road intersection currently presents line-of-sight safety concerns for drivers on Arizona Farms Road. The project would realign this traffic intersection and replace the stop-controlled intersection with a traffic light to improve traffic flow and safety.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal agencies are required to consider

the potential social and environmental impacts of proposed actions. This letter serves as the BIA's invitation for comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed action. All comments received become part of the public record associated with this proposed action. Accordingly, your comments (including your name and address) will be available for review by any person that wishes to view the record. At your request, we will withhold your contact information to the extent allowed by the Freedom of Information Act.

Please submit your comments to the following: Cecilia Baker, Superintendent - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency.

P.O. Box 8  
Sacaton, AZ 85147  
Telephone: (520) 562-3326 or email at: cecilia.baker@bia.gov.

# GRIC Rolls Mobile Vaccine Units to Districts, More Dates to Come

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community remains committed to combating the COVID-19 pandemic through increased access to COVID-19 vaccines. On May 17, GRIC held a vaccination event at Rawhide Event Center from 1p.m to 8p.m to provide boosters to those who received their first dose on April 26 where GRIC also introduced the Mobile Vaccination Unit (MVU), designed to bring vaccinations, testing and information directly to Community members and provide outreach.

The MVU has been

deployed in District 5, District 6 and most recently at locations in District 1 and District 4. GRIC staff have been leaving door hangers at residences to inform households of the MVU times and locations, including Saturday, May 22 at the Mawid Subdivision in District 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and at St. Peter Indian Mission School on Sunday, May 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in District 5.

On May 14, GRIC's Health & Social Standing Committee made an official motion to expand the vaccine to federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential and enterprise employees including household



Community members visit the MVU setup at the old District 4 service center in Stotinic. Zachary Redbird/CPAO

members. All recipients must be at least 16 years of age or older. Tribal Health

Department's May 18 Data Report revealed that GRIC cases are decreasing. Five cases were reported from

May 3 to May 9, which decreased to two cases reported from May 10 to May 16. A total of 2,953

have tested positive for COVID-19 with 79 deaths due to COVID as of May 18.

# Official Certified Election Results for May 4, 2021

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY 2021 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION MAY 4, 2021 OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS					
COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1			COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4		
CRUZ YUCUPIFO	9	4.27%	CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA	88	43.78%
ARZIE T. HOGG	69	32.70%	JOHN A. ANTONIO	78	38.81%
CYNTHIA RUTH ANTONIO	35	16.59%	JAYSON ANDREW MICHAEL ENOS	22	10.92%
LYNELLE BLACKWATER	40	18.98%	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	3	1.49%
CARLOS MORENO	18	8.53%			
KEITH A. WILLIAMS, SR.	40	18.96%			
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	0	0.00%			
COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5			COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6		
WAHLEAN J. RIGGS	75	28.74%	ANTHONY "CHRIS" VILLAREAL, SR.	134	60.94%
SERENA M. JOAQUIN	41	15.71%	RHONDA WHEMPHER	98	45.88%
PAMELA J. VEGA	72	27.59%	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	0	0.00%
FRANKLIN PABLO, SR.	73	27.97%			
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	0	0.00%			

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	
DISTRICT 1	195
DISTRICT 4	192
DISTRICT 5	271
DISTRICT 6	151
ABSENT	124
TOTAL	893



The Gila River Hotels & Casinos made a donated in the amount of \$25,000 to the Gila River Tribal Social Services – Residential Program for Youth, as part of the "Gila River Cares" program on Thursday 13, 2021 at 9am. Photo courtesy Gila River Hotels & Casinos



# AOPPYC is Bridging the Gap Brings Elders and Youth Together

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community youth and elders have embarked on a virtual sharing of knowledge and wisdom among the generations through the Akimel O’otham/Pee-Posh Youth Council’s Bridging the Gap discussion series. Discussions are held for one hour on Saturdays throughout May, concluding on June 5.

Bridging the Gap is an intergenerational discussion series that allows elders to share their life experiences growing up in the Community and various topics, including language, culture, history, and more.

This venture is a combined effort of

the AOPPYC and the Community’s Council of Elders and Elderly Concerns Group. The goals are to provide space for healthy conversations between the two groups and address specific learning objectives from each party.

The goals for Community youths include learning the GRIC language and culture, discovering resources available to them and learning valuable life lessons from their elders. In contrast, the goals for elders are to provide healthy conversations for their mental health, social well-being, building connections in the Community, and learning to utilize technology like the iPads used for each session.

“Our elders have a

vast knowledge of our language, history, and life experience. You combine that with the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of our youth, and you have a powerful gathering,” said Michael Preston, AOPPYC Coordinator.

The May 15th Bridging the Gap discussion focused on the importance of introductions for the O’otham, formal language when addressing family members, marriage, and traditional patrilineal and patrilocal systems in O’otham culture.

Jada Young found the discussions rich with teaching. “In my first sessions, we created a circle where the elders would say a phrase in O’otham, and then the youth would

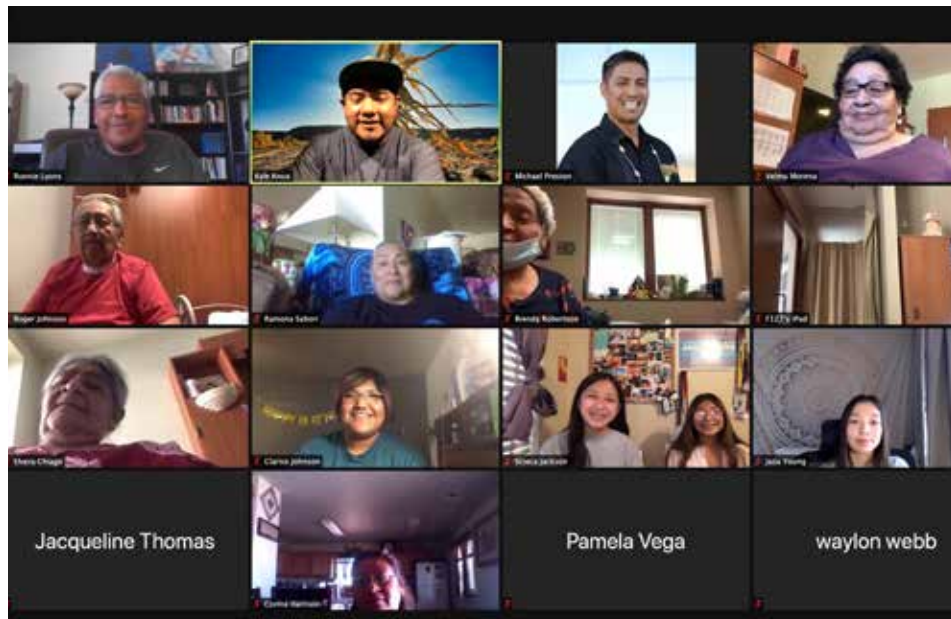
repeat it,” she explained. “It was so supportive and encouraging, and I learned how to pronounce many O’otham words better.”

AOPPYC President Susanna Osife described the discussions as “inspiring,” and said she would like to see more youth attend. “What I find most important with Bridging the Gap is how one generation of

young people and another generation of our elders have come together to ensure that the quality of our culture, language, and community are taken care of and preserved,” said Osife.

Bridging the Gap only has a few sessions left. However, AOPPYC Coordinator Michael Preston shared that they are likely to host more in


the future. The remaining Bridging the Gap discussions will be on May 22, 29, and June 5 at 1 p.m. For more information on how to attend as an elder or youth, please call 520-562-1866 or visit AOPPYC.org.



Community youth and elders attend the “Bridging the Gap” presentation on May 15. Kyle Knox

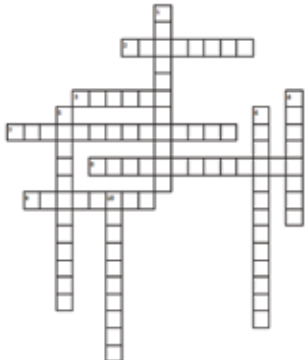
### What’s the “Skinny” on Fat

As the Summer nears and we are scrambling to fit in our favorite Summer clothes, we are watching our diet, avoiding fats and exercising. So what fats are we supposed to avoid, are good, are bad etc.? Below you will find a crossword that may help in your quest to better understand some commonly used terms for fat that we deal with in our bodies and the food we eat. We encourage you to take some time and attempt this puzzle to help you navigate your way to the body we all aspire to have throughout the year. Please choose from the selections at the left of the page. If you have any questions regarding nutrition, please call the Community Health Nutrition Program at 520-562-5100.



- Saturated fat
- Unsaturated fat
- Trans fat
- Lipids
- Cholesterol
- White fat
- Brown fat
- Phospholipids
- Adipose Tissue
- Fatty Acids

### "Skinny" on Fat




**Down:**

1. is a waxy, fat-like substance that's found in all the cells in your body
4. stores your energy in large fat droplets that accumulate around the body
5. is solid at room temperature, mostly in animal foods, such as milk, cheese and meat
6. are present in almost all foods in human nutrition, soybean, eggs, offal, milk, other dairy products, and some vegetable are good sources
10. would be fats, oils, cholesterol, and steroids, can be saturated and unsaturated

**Across:**

2. a dark-colored adipose tissue with many blood vessels
3. include fatty acids, natural fats, waxes and steroids
7. is liquid at room temperature, is mostly in oils from plants
8. is commonly known as body fat, is found all over the body
9. is a fat that has been changed by a process called hydrogenation, process increases the shelf life of fat and makes the fat harder at room temperature

## Student Services



# College Scholarship

## Deadline is June 1st

**Application Documents Needed:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Application</li> <li>•200 Word Essay</li> <li>•Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) (Current - Within 90 days of deadline date)</li> <li>•Acceptance Letter</li> <li>•Enrollment Agreement (Vocational Schools ONLY)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Program of Study</li> <li>•Official Class Schedule (Or school letter if registration opens after June 1st)</li> <li>•Student Aid Report - SAR (2020-2021)</li> <li>•High School Diploma or GED</li> <li>•Official College Transcripts (All previously attended colleges)</li> </ul>
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Late applications will not be accepted


Send Documents to:  
PO BOX 97 Sacaton, AZ 85147

Any questions about going back to school

Email: [student.services@gric.nsn.us](mailto:student.services@gric.nsn.us)

Call: (520) 562-3316

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
**DISTRICT 6 PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**



## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF GRIC!

We want to hear from you!

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

What will happen?

**District 6** Community Visioning Meeting

**6:00 - 8:00 PM**  
**Thursday May 27, 2021**

**Zoom** (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87011294345>) or dial in at 929-205-6099

Your participation matters. Land use is changing, and the Community is getting more impacted by outside development pressures.  
**Help us strategize the best uses for the Community's land and your future.**

Review current status of land uses in the Community, identify planning considerations for future land uses, and develop a future vision for the Community Land Use Plan. **Raffle drawings will occur during the event!**

JOIN US:

Join the Meeting online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87011294345>

OR

Dial In at **(1) 929-205-6099** (Meeting ID 870 1129 4345)

For more info please visit:  
<http://www.mygilariver.com/index.php/gila-river-indian-community-land-use-plan>

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • May 5, 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, May 5, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:02 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 (9:29), 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. (9:05), Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

**Council Members Absent:**  
 D4-Vacant

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DISPENSE WITH RESOLUTION #4**  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #3, AND #5; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #3 AND #5**  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS**  
 >1. BGCGRIC 2021 2nd Quarter Report  
 Presenters: Jason Jones; Mark Clavell; Jocelyn Young; Nancy House; Anita Leon; Soyet Antone; Emiliano Morondos; Travis Jack; Guru Khalsa  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
 \*2. Draft Education Code  
 Presenters: Isaac Salcido; Naomi Bebo; Rebecca Hall

**REPORT HEARD**  
 >3. Community Technology Center FY2020 / FY 2021 2nd Quarter Report  
 Presenter: Connie Jackson  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4. COVID-19 Taskforce Report  
 Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force

**REPORT HEARD**  
 >5. Gila River Sand & Gravel Quarterly Report FY 2021 Q1  
 Presenters: Michael Morago; Donna Stowell; Darin White; GRSG Board of Directors  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

6. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council March 2021 (Executive Session)  
 Presenters: Gaming Commission Board; Melvin S. Sanderson  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #6, #7, #8**

7. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report for March 2021 (Executive Session)  
 Presenters: Kenneth Manuel; Interim Oversight & Planning Committee  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AT REPORT #6**

8. FY 2021 2nd Quarter Treasurer's Report

(Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AT REPORT #6**

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying The Construction Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Digney York Associates, LLC For The Sheraton Room Remodel (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs)  
 Presenters: David White; Jason Croxton; Casaundra Wallace  
**APPROVED**

2. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-020-17 And Approving Tribal Land Assignment To Grant 6.4428 Acres More Or Less Of Community Trust Land To Blackwater School For The Purpose Of Designing, Constructing, Operating And Maintaining The Blackwater Community School On The Land Assignment As Shown In Drawing No. SV-1 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC and ESC concur)  
 Presenters: Norman Brewer; Corrina Ortiz; Jagdish Sharma; Kimberly Antone  
**APPROVED**

>3. A Resolution Recognizing The Community's Ownership Interest In The Buildings And Personal Property Situated On Community Trust Land In District Six And Operated By The Gila Crossing Day School, Inc. (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and ESC concur)  
 Presenter: Casaundra Wallace  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

>4. A Resolution Authorizing The Collection, Dissemination And Publication Of Nonidentifying Data For First Things First Gila River Indian Community Regional Need And Assets Report 2022 (H&SSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; ESC concurs)  
 Presenter: Joshua Billison  
**ITEM DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

>5. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Teresa Ysabella Munoz Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
 Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

6. A Resolution Approving A Ground Lease Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. To Construct, Maintain, Operate, And Repair A Communication Facility And To Sublease Any Portion Of The Leased Premises To A Sublessee To Construct, Maintain, Operate, And Repair The Communication Facility And Related Uses Pursuant To The Gila River Indian Community Leasing Regulations (EDSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)  
 Presenter: Casaundra Wallace  
**APPROVED**

**ORDINANCES**

1. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Amends Title 6 Chapter 17 Of The Gila River Indian Community Code, Enacting Section 6.1727 (D)-(F) To Prohibit Engine Brakes And Unmuffled Exhaust Systems (LSC forwards to Council with a

recommendation for approval with amendments)  
 Presenters: Timothy Oliver; Bartley Harris; Rebecca Hall  
**APPROVED**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Residential Lease on Allotted Land (LSC forwards to Council to schedule a Special Council meeting)  
 Presenters: Javier Ramos; Mandy Cisneros  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FOR JUNE 4, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.**  
**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Government & Management Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (2) Council Seats (G&MSC forwards to Council to declare (2) Council Seat Vacancies)  
 Presenter: Government & Management Standing Committee  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (2) VACANCIES**

2. Gila River Farms FY20 Financial Audit (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept)  
 Presenters: Wesley Benally; Cletus Shirley; Stephanie Saucedo-Manuel  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT**

3. Gila River Farms Board of Director's Declaration of Vacancy – (2) Seats (G&MSC forwards to Council to declare the vacancies for the (2) seats)  
 Presenters: Gila River Farms Board of Directors  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (2) VACANCIES**

4. Health & Social Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (1) Council Seat (H&SSC forwards to Council to declare vacancy of one Council seat)  
 Presenters: Health & Social Standing Committee  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (1) VACANCY**

5. Legislative Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancies (2) Council Seats (LSC forwards to Council to declare the 2 Council Seat Vacancies)  
 Presenter: Committee  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (2) VACANCIES**

6. Education Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancies (1) Council Seat (ESC forwards to Council to declare the vacancy)  
 Presenter: Committee  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (1) VACANCY**

7. Cultural Resource Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council - (1) Council Seat (CRSC forwards to Council to declare vacancy for (1) Council seat)  
 Presenter: Committee  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (1) VACANCY**

8. Economic Development Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (1) Council Seat (EDSC forwards to Council to declare (1) Council Seat vacancy)  
 Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (1) VACANCY**

**Agenda continues on page 13.**



### MOBILE VACCINE AND TESTING UNIT



COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY

## COVID-19 VACCINE SITE

**Join us Wednesday!**  
**May 26, 2021**  
**9 am – 4 pm**

**At District 3  
Boys & Girls Club**  
Seed Farm Rd, Sacaton, AZ 85147



#### Eligibility Guidelines:

GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, all federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential employees and their household members, and community enterprise employees and their household members. All individuals must be 16 years or older.

#GILARIVERSTRONG #COMMUNITYIMMUNITY  
mygilariver.com



COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY

## COVID-19 VACCINE SITE

**Join us Thursday!**  
**May 27, 2021**  
**9 am – 3 pm**

**At District 5  
Service Center**  
3456 W Casa Blanca Rd, Bapchule, AZ 85121



#### Eligibility Guidelines:

GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, all federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential employees and their household members, and community enterprise employees and their household members. All individuals must be 16 years or older.

#GILARIVERSTRONG #COMMUNITYIMMUNITY  
mygilariver.com



COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY

## GRIC MOBILE VACCINE UNIT

**Join us Friday!**  
**May 28, 2021**  
**9 am – 12 pm**

**At District 3  
East Housing**  
Sacaton, AZ 85147



#### Eligibility Guidelines:

GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, all federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential employees and their household members, and community enterprise employees and their household members. All individuals must be 16 years or older.

#GILARIVERSTRONG #COMMUNITYIMMUNITY  
mygilariver.com



COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY

## GRIC MOBILE VACCINE UNIT

**Join us Saturday!**  
**May 29, 2021**  
**9 am – 12 pm**

**At District 7  
Pee Posh**  
8035 S 83rd Ave, Laveen Village, AZ 85339



#### Eligibility Guidelines:

GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, all federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential employees and their household members, and community enterprise employees and their household members. All individuals must be 16 years or older.

#GILARIVERSTRONG #COMMUNITYIMMUNITY  
mygilariver.com

Calling all GRIC Youth ages 13-21



**SELF WELLNESS**  
**AND**  
**GROWTH**


VIRTUAL GILA RIVER YOUTH CONFERENCE

June 26 and June 27, 2021 from 1:00pm — 5:00pm


Register at [www.aoppyc.org](http://www.aoppyc.org)

## Agenda from page 11.

- MINUTES
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ~PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE FAMILY OF NEIL RANGER
- ~THANK YOU FOR WEARING RED TODAY IN HONOR OF MISSING MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN
- ADJOURNMENT
- MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:01 P.M.
- \* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
- > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
Office of the Treasurer  
*Robert G. Keller, Community Treasurer*



### 2020 COVID-19 General Welfare Checks

The third round of COVID-19 General Welfare checks mailed out on December 9, 2020 will be expiring soon! These checks void 180 days after the date of issue, which is Monday, June 7, 2021.

If you did not receive your check and/or have questions regarding the payment, please contact our Office at (520) 562-5222 or by email at [gricpercapita@gric.nsn.us](mailto:gricpercapita@gric.nsn.us)

Also, please ensure your address is up to date for the 5<sup>th</sup> COVID-General Welfare payment going out on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,  
The Per Capita Office

525 W. Gu u Ki Rd • Post Office Box # 2160 • Sacaton, Arizona 85147 • Telephone (520) 562-9600 • Fax (520) 562-9659

## O'otham Haichu Ñeo'ok - SOLUTION!

Ñt 'o 'i beich hejel memaltham k ga hu 'o vua tho 'o kekch.

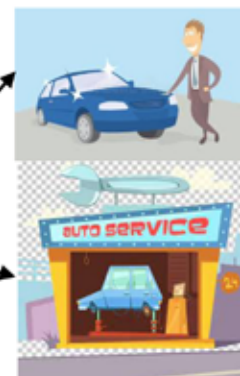
Tho vo:p thoth gegos!

Bo sha a'apa!

Nolavth vechich hejel memaltham!

Manth 'o me: ko che:gim eth hahajuñ ki: ap!

Tho bango wi: ko pa:tsh eñ cha:gi!



## Submissions

Melva Charles has been a dedicated employee of the Gila River Indian Community for more than 40 years! Mrs. Charles decided it was time for her to retire on January 29, 2021. She has served the community since shortly after the inception of the Commodity Food Distribution Program in 1980. She has seen many changes within the program including staff and program locations. In 2007, the program decreased to 1 eligibility worker and that left only Melva. Melva never complained and was always on top of her work; if you ask her she usually knows every client's eligibility status. She has fine tuned the application process over the years which made her work as well as everyone else's job easier. Melva was married to the late Mr. Garold Charles and has a daughter, Melanie, and two grandchild. We will all miss seeing Melva sitting at her desk at the



Commodity Food Distribution Program Office and wish her the best in her retirement!

**Submitted by**  
Scott Killian

People of Gila River Indian Community, My name is Scott and I am a travel respiratory therapist. I live in Gilbert with my family. I also work at Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert. I have had the opportunity to care for your loved ones here over the past year at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital. I'd like to say thank you for this opportunity. Getting to know you has been a true pleasure. I won't forget the patients that I took care

of, the ones that passed from covid, and the ones who miraculously made it, and that was a great joy!

I'd also like to say thank you to the Hu Hu Kam staff. You have a great hospital and maybe someday if they decide to have a permanent respiratory department I can be part of the awesome team here.

Once again thank you and peace to you,  
Scott Killian, RRT

**Public Notice**  
GRIC Dept. of Environmental Quality

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AMBIENT AIR MONITORING NETWORK REVIEW**  
Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §58.10 Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Program (AQP) will make its annual monitoring network plan available for public inspection prior to submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Annual Ambient Monitoring Network Review and Data

Summary present changes to and data collected from the air quality monitoring network during calendar year 2019. This document will be available for review at the GRIC DEQ office located at 168 Skill Center Dr., Sacaton, AZ 85147, and on the AQP website at [www.gricdeq.org](http://www.gricdeq.org) under Public Notices. Public comments may be submitted in writing to GRIC DEQ Air Quality, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, Arizona, 85147. Additional information is available from GRIC DEQ Air Quality, 168 Skill Center Dr., Sacaton, AZ 85147, the AQP website ([www.gricdeq.org](http://www.gricdeq.org) under Air), or by calling 520-562-2234.



# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NATIONAL POPPY DAY®

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

December 8, 1915 | John McCrae

MAY 28, 2021

*Jr. Miss Gila River presents*

# **MENTAL HEALTH & CULTURE**

Join Gila River Royalty

## **May 27, 2021 at 6:00PM**

as they discuss mental health issues and cultural significance. Special guests include Tribal Royalty around Arizona sharing their own stories on these important topics.

*Also, please submit questions for our royalty and guests to answer. This will be a safe space for all. Hope to see you there!*

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<b>2020 TOYOTA COROLLA</b>  15,000 MILES <b>\$350/mo.</b>	<b>2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX AWD</b>  <b>\$385/mo.</b>	<b>2017 FORD EDGE TITANIUM</b>  <b>\$415/mo.</b>	<b>2017 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED</b>  FULLY LOADED <b>\$265/mo.</b>	<b>2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA</b>  <b>\$185/mo.</b>



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