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THE GRIN



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NOVEMBER 19, 2021

Gov. Lewis Joins President Biden at the White House for Historic Infrastructure Bill Signing

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was in Washington, D.C., to witness the signing of President Biden's Infrastructure Bill on Nov. 15. The Governor joined Congressional members, state and local officials at the signing and was one of only three tribal leaders from Indian Country invited to the historic event.

"I am honored to be invited by the White House to attend President Biden's signing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act today," Gov. Lewis said. "This historic Act will provide funding for tribal water settlements including the Community's settlement and

will help the Community address drought and transportation and broadband needs in the Community.

The next day, Governor Lewis participated in the White House Tribal Nations Summit on a panel that highlighted the impacts of climate change in Indian Country. Gov. Lewis noted that "Climate change is the existential threat of our lifetimes and we need to address the impacts for our current and future generations." Governor Lewis highlighted the Community's role in leading drought discussions and innovative solutions such as solar covered panels that the Community will put in place the first quarter of next year.

While in Washington D.C., Governor Lewis met with Congressman O'Halleran to brief the Congressman on the current drought discussions and he also met with Senator Kelly and reiterated his request that Senator Kelly take any and all measures necessary to pass the Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act this year.

Governor Lewis stated that "This week was historic and also an opportunity to highlight the Community's federal priorities."

Right, Gov. Lewis attends the signing ceremony for the 1 Trillion infrastructure bill inked into law by President Joe Biden on Nov. 15. GRIC Photo



Gila River Hotels & Casinos Partners with BetMGM To Bring Sports Betting to the Valley

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Sports betting has come to Gila River Hotels & Casinos with the opening of a first-of-its-kind establishment in the Valley. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and members of the GRH&C leadership team cut the ribbon on the BetMGM sportsbook at the Vee Quiva Hotel & Casino on Nov. 5.

The introduction of BetMGM's high-profile name coupled with the sports book's stylish atmosphere ushers in a new level of betting for GRH&C and patrons looking to take their sports gaming to the next level.

The BetMGM sportsbook offers a wide range of amenities for patrons to follow the on-field action, according to the GRH&C press release. This includes 25 huge display screens within a lounge-type atmosphere that can seat over 100 patrons. Additionally, there are 20 betting



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Richard Strafella, Chief Operations Officer for Gila River Hotels & Casinos, cut the ribbon for the BetMGM Sportsbook at Vee Quiva on Nov. 5. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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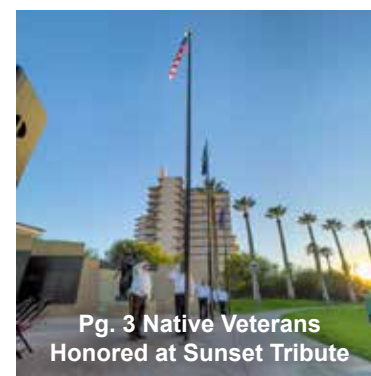
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Pg. 3 Native Veterans Honored at Sunset Tribute



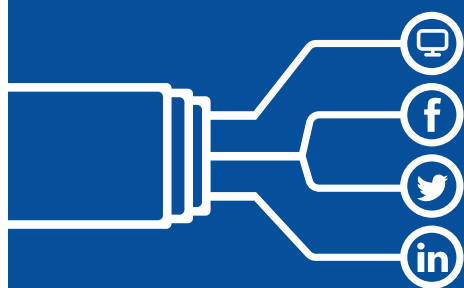
Alluvion Communications

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 and follow us on social media.



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AISES Names Alluvion 1 of 10 Native STEM Enterprises to Watch



Alluvion Communications follows old paths — but in new ways. Around 300 BCE, the Huhugam (sometimes called "Hohokam") people built a vast irrigation canal system in the Sonoran Desert near Phoenix. Today Alluvion in nearby Chandler, Ariz., is pursuing the modern equivalent, sending customers gushers of

voice and data information through fiber-optic "pipelines."

The Huhugam network consisted of 500 miles of canals, some 30 feet wide and 10 feet deep, that branched into smaller irrigation channels. Alluvion serves businesses in two local counties and has plans even more ambitious than its ancient predecessors, according to General Manager David Ackerman.

Visit the Alluvion blog to read the entire article:

<https://www.alluvion.net/blog>

Alluvion Proudly Supports the Digital Connect Initiative



The Digital Connect Initiative (DCI) is a collaborative work to help individuals and communities use digital communications technologies to connect with each other through creative expressions of language, history, and culture.

Visit our blog to learn more about the great work happening at DCI. <https://www.alluvion.net/blog>



Gila River HEALTH CARE

Healthy Kids & Families

Get Vaccinated!

COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines Available

	11/20 Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	10 am – 5 pm
	<i>Covid-safe Family Vaccine Event with Health Fair & Take-a-way Lunch!</i>	
	11/22 Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	9 am – 3 pm
	11/23 Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	9 am – 3 pm
	11/23 D6 Service Center	9 am – 3 pm
	11/24 Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	9 am – 3 pm
	11/24 D6 Service Center	9 am – 3 pm

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

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY CLOSED 11/25 & 26/2021

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

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



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
Christopher Mendoza

District 5
Marlin Dixon
Brian E. Davis, Sr.
James De La Rosa
Wahlean J. Riggs

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

District 7
Devin Redbird

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Newly Named Courtroom Honors The Career of Judge Jay Pedro

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Judges and staff from the Gila River judicial system gathered for a ceremonial courtroom name revealing Thurs. November 4. The occasion officially marked the renaming of the Gila River Children's Courtroom as the "Jay D. Pedro Courtroom." The name change is in honor of Judge Jay Pedro, who retired from the courts after serving 30 years as a Children's Court Judge.

"This is a great honor," Judge Pedro told those gathered for the ceremony. "I'm very humbled and appreciate the recognition. During my career, I stayed the course, did the best I could for our children and families. I hope that my career has some merit, and I thank you all very much."

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis attended the event. He described the Judge as a landmark contributor to the Community's justice system.

"This is a significant acknowledgment of all that Judge Pedro has done in the children's court for a number of years, and it's very respectful of his legacy and contributions to the court," said Gov. Lewis. "Seeing the staff here to honor Judge Pedro in a



Former Children's Court Judge Jay Pedro, stands in front of a courtroom, that was named in his honor for the 30 years of service within the Gila River Judicial System. Kyle Knox/GRIN

beautiful, tasteful and safe manner brought a good boost of positivity for everyone here."

Though retired, Judge Jay Pedro serves as a visiting judge presiding over cases when there aren't judges available or other special circumstances. This part-time arrangement allows him to enjoy his "sunset years" in retire-

ment with family and traveling.

"I dedicated my entire legal career to the Gila River Indian Community," said Judge Pedro. "I would do it no other way if I could do it again."

Judge Antoinette Enos was also present for the reveal. She was sworn in as the Community's new Children's Court judge.

"I look up to Judge Pedro. Those are some big shoes to fill, and I'm thankful to be here for the revealing of the courtroom naming," said Judge Enos. "I look forward to learning and the challenge of this role, and I hope to do my best in this role and give back to my community."

Veteran's Tribute Returns after Year of Absence

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Heard Museum once again hosted veterans' groups from across the state of Arizona during the annual Sunset Tribute to Veterans event on Nov. 11.

The ceremony – held virtually last year through a pre-recorded message aired on the museum's Facebook page – was back live and person for 2021. The event included an art showcase featuring Native veterans who make art representing their tribal culture or service in the military. The Gila River Indian Community's Ira H. Hayes Post 84 was present to raise the colors, while a drum group and troupe of Hualapai Bird Singers provided a traditional dance.

"It's a nice to be back here this year," said Marcus Monekerkit, Director of Community Engagement for the Heard. "It's good to see everyone here today and we appreciate everyone that has attended this evening's event."

Monekerkit said the military service of Native veterans represents an important aspect of indigenous culture past and present, given that Natives serve in the highest numbers in the U.S. armed forces.

David Roche, the Director and CEO of the museum, thanked Native veterans for their willingness to serve. "Thanks to all of you that are here tonight. We remember and reflect on the outstanding commitments that American Indian veterans and all veterans have made to our nation."

Roche said he views it as essential that the museum tell the stories of Native veterans, their sacrifice and what they have given for future generations to revere.



Representative Jamescita Peshlakai addresses the attendees at the Heard Sunset Tribute to veterans event on Nov. 11. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

"Not only do we honor veterans, but we honor their families as well. Veterans families have also played an essential role in our nation's history," said Roche. "We remember their sacrifice here tonight and offer our humble thanks to those who remained behind and who so passionately loved and supported the men and women who fought and sometimes gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country."

Jamescita Peshlakai, a state Senator and a veteran who represents northern Arizona, spoke about how service for Natives has deeper roots, values centered on the preservation of culture, safety and looking out for their communities at home. She said there is a sense of diversity and camaraderie that brings people together to around those values which accounts for much of why indigenous people serve so often in the armed forces.

"When we think about ser-



A member of Ira H. Hayes Post 84 receives a challenge coin from Sen. Peshlakai at the Sunset Tribute to Veterans Event on Nov. 11. Christopher Lomahquahu

vice, it's about protecting our loved ones, protecting our community, what we love and what we are willing to die for, which is the people that we love in our community," said Peshlakai.

To conclude the evenings

event, Peshlakai and Heard staff presented Native veterans with a challenge coin meant to recognize their service and their commitment to keeping their communities' safe and free.

Culture Corner

S-uam Mashath – Thova Thash

Submitted by
The Huhugam Heritage
Center

In the upcoming days, we will all gather together with our families and enjoy our Thova Thash (Thanksgiving Day) dinner. In 1834-35, the Salt River calendar stick recorded: "This year was long remembered because of the bountiful crops of wheat, corn, squashes, pumpkins, and watermelons raised. The desert mesas were carpeted with flowers and the blossom of cacti further transformed them into gardens." Our Heki O'otham have always conducted social feasts long before the holiday was recognized.

In more recent times, our families gather together to have our dinner outdoors in the warm sunshine. Most of our dinners are pot-luck and many specialty dishes are cooked up for the gathering. The main dish is always roasted thova (turkey) and ko:ji chu:kug (roasted ham) along with all the trimmings. Of course, it

wasn't considered a proper dinner, if a few O'otham dishes didn't make it to the table. Many cooks have their own special recipes.

Back in the day, chu:v hithoḍ (jackrabbit stew) was a standard dish. Many of us young men went out on a communal hunt and dispatched enough chu:v for the occasion. Our Elders had to have their steaming, hot chu:v hithoḍ with skovk chemaith (thick bread) on a cold day. Other standard dishes included hannam, ga'ivsa (roasted cracked corn) and kalvash poshol (garbanzo soup-pisoli). Kalvash poshol was always cooked with either beef neck-bone or short-ribs. Ko'okol hithoḍ (beef chili stew) was always fitting for any occasion. An assortment of ko'okol (chili) could always be found on any O'otham dinner table.

There was a variety of fresh, sauced and jarred chilies. The standard O'otham 'go-to' chili still remains our beloved olas ko'okol (round chili, chiltepinas). Small jars were passed around the dinner

table and paper used to crush the small, round chilies into hot dishes. Along with the dinner rolls would be a bowl of hot chemaith, fresh off the komal (griddle disk). Around the dinner table would be lively conversations, as we visited and were reacquainted with our ha'hajuñ. It was very special when a family member was home on furlough from the military.

Many food items were adopted from Spanish, Mexican and American cooks as they passed through our community on their way west. As is often the case, our great grandparents 'O'othamized' the adopted food items to fit our spoken language. Many family recipes are passed down through the generations. Some families still own their grandmother's cook books. This month's word search will help you add traditional and adopted foods into your spoken vocabulary.

We encourage you to speak O'otham around your dinner tables. Speak with an Elder or Speaker and learn to say the food names.



Thova Thash Word Search 2021

h	k	o	:	c	h	i	i	v	o	'	o	a	a	b	a	a	l	'	v	t		
c	a	n	y	u	m	d	o	h	t	i	h	l	o	k	o	'	o	k	i			
a	b	a	a	l	s	'	n	s	e	c	h	u	:	k	u	j	m	a	n	k		
n	o	l	v	t	h	a	i	c	h	u	u	m	v	n	o	l	s	c	h			
a	'	a	b	o	l	v	b	u	m	a	c	h	e	a	k	i	h	k	u			
'	o	s	a	v	d	m	a	i	g	b	a	s	h	p	v	e	k	u	d			
a	k	h	a	u	:	t	v	i	u	k	a	v	l	o	i	m	y	l	o	k		
k	o	o	v	i	m	a	k	o	'	o	a	p	a	a	n	v	i	i	b			
s	k	u	:	i	o	v	u	:	b	s	l	h	b	v	i	y	a	y	k	o	l	
v	l	m	h	k	h	l	t	a	:	h	b	e	t	h	v	a	m	a	d	k		
t	h	s	t	c	s	t	h	o	v	a	h	m	a	k	l	u	:	v	o	o		
b	a	:	s	i	h	s	a	h	t	a	v	o	h	t	s	i	v	o	h	'		
b	m	j	b	a	w	i	l	o	k	o	'	o	k	s	a	l	o	t	o			
v	o	:	k	o	:	c	h	i	:	u	m	a	a	c	h	m	s	i	k	n	i	k
k	a	l	v	a	s	h	p	o	s	h	o	l	h	s	a	d	v	h	o			
c	a	l	m	b	l	e	i	t	h	o	k	a	a	m	o	d	i	v	k			
a	b	a	d	i	h	t	o	:	m	a	k	o	'	o	k	a	m	o	u	:	u	
b	h	u	:	n	m	i	s	c	h	i	i	n	k	i	j	i	o	d	h	u		
l	o	h	s	o	k	o	i	m	l	a	b	a	:	n	a	l	a	s	c	m		
j	b	a	:	b	a	s	v	h	t	i	a	m	e	k	c	h	u	:	k	u	a	

Words can be found forward, backward, diagonal, up and down!

- thova – turkey kayio – drumstick umach – thigh ba:sho – breast
- a'anach – wing ko:ji chu:kug – ham ha:l – squash/pumpkin
- hu:n – corn a:bal – apple u:dvis – grapes pan – dinner rolls/bread
- chemaith – tortilla kamo:thi – yam nalash – orange bav – tepary
- kalvash poshol- pisoli chu:v hithoḍ - jackrabbit stew ba:bas - potato
- olas ko'okol – chiltepinas ko'okol hithoḍ - chili stew

Food names may be slightly different between the villages. From all of us here at your Huhugam Heritage Center, we wish you all a S-he:kig Thova Thash!

A special Thank You

to our Community Elders whose shared knowledge of O'otham foods and dishes that helped make this article possible! Calendar stick account related from The Pima Indians, Frank

Russell, 1908, University of Arizona Press, p. 38. Answers of page 9.



We are RESILIENT. We are ENDURING. We are GILA RIVER STRONG.



Arts & Entertainment

Phoenix Rising Relishes on Past Season, Look Forward to Exciting 2022 Season

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

November marked the end of the Phoenix Rising Football Club's first regular season playing in their new home stadium at Wild Horse Pass. Phoenix Rising went undefeated at home this year, after the Community established a partnership with the team in December of last year.

The Rising's electrifying 2020-2021 season was marked with many highs that featured upgrades to the fan experience in comparison to their previous location. The new stadium included a scoreboard, VIP and premier seating, better bathroom facilities, and access points from the I-10 and Loop 202. In addition, the season included cultural programming inclusive of their diverse fanbase and the Gila River Indian Community.

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis kicked off the home season by scoring a ceremonial "first goal" in April. Later in the season, the team screened a video paying homage to the Community's front-line workers who helped stave off the COVID-19 pandemic, including from the Community's police and fire departments, as well as Gila River Healthcare. The Rising also honored Indigenous Peoples Day by creating a custom warm-up jersey designed by the Community's Jaime Jackson.

While the Rising boasted one of the best records for the USL, they



Phoenix Rising starters return to the locker room after an on-field warmup donning the Indigenous Peoples Day warm up jersey on Oct. 9. Below left, Solomon Asante warms up, wearing the Indigenous Peoples Day jersey. Kyle Knox/GRIN Below right, the Phoenix Rising new home stadium offers updated amenities for patrons to watch the game. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



fell to the Rio Grande Valley Toro's Saturday, Nov. 6, in their first post-season match. The match concluded in a jaw-dropping 4-3 penalty kick shoot-out which ended the season for Rising. Even so, members of Rising's dedicated fan group, "The Bandidos," took to the field to congratulate the team for

a great season. Rising is working to build on their roster with the next season in sight, having already re-signed 13 of this season's star players – all while building on the successful foundation at their new home at Wild Horse Pass.



BetMGM Front Page

kiosks and tickets writers to help patrons place bets.

"On behalf of myself, the Community, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and our 17 members of Council, [we] are so proud of all of you, of our gaming enterprise, our hotels and casinos, for this next chapter in the Gila River Indian Community – for being the first Native American sportsbook here in Arizona," said Gov. Lewis.

Gov. Lewis highlighted the upbeat pace of development with the Community's gaming arm, saying, "We are leading the way and are at the forefront of gaming in Arizona."

Gov. Lewis also thanked the Gila River Hotels & Casino employees for their tireless work in making events like the

opening of the BetMGM sportsbook possible.

"We started more than two years ago on the Gila River Indian Community side to make sports betting possible for us, with the amendment and reinstated tribal gaming compact," said Dominic Orozco, Chief Strategic Marketing Officer, Gila River Hotels & Casinos.

Orozco said when the opportunity for sports betting was available to the Community, the Gila River Hotels & Casinos operations team toured the country to search for a sports betting provider to make sure the right one was chosen for the casino brand and GRIC.

"BetMGM, being out here in the west, being in Las Vegas, they know gaming and they've been in the business for quite a while, so we brought them in here and they're the first Arizona BetMGM sportsbook to go



The BetMGM sportsbook at Vee Quiva Hotel & Casino hosts a wide-range of sports viewing for patrons to keep-up with the big game. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN.

live," said Orozco. "Looking at spaces that weren't utilized, in the gaming business its revenue per square foot. This space [here], it used to be VQ live," said Orozco, "We wanted to create everything that you can have at your fingertips utilizing the 2,000

square feet that we have for an enjoyable experience." Kenneth Manuel, the CEO of Gila River Hotels & Casinos, called the opening an exciting day for the Community, its gaming enterprises and Arizona sports fans. "As Arizona's Official

Sports Headquarters, we take pride in bringing unique sports experiences to our valued guests," Manuel said in the press release. "We're excited to partner with BetMGM, the King of Sportsbooks, to deliver a diverse, engaging selection of betting options that are

easy to transact, no matter if you're a huge sports fan or you just want to check out the fun." In addition to Vee Quiva, GRH&C plans to open BetMGM sportsbooks at the Lone Butte and Wild Horse Pass properties.

Forum Brings Tribal Leaders Together to Discuss Drought Concerns

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

On Oct. 28 and 29, The Colorado River Basin Tribal Coalition met for their first in-person meeting for a two-day work session at the Grand Sheraton Resort.

Earlier this year, fourteen tribal leaders including Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, launched The Colorado River Basin Tribal Coalition, initially named the “Tribal Leaders Forum”, to share information and interest on the advancement of water rights and management of the Colorado River.

Some of those tribes include the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Tohono O’odham Nation, Hopi Tribe, Cocopah Indian Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Paiute Indian Tribe, Fort Yuma Quechan and Chemehuevi Indian Tribe.

The Colorado River is over 1,400 miles long and flows through seven U.S states and into Mexico, including 29 federally recognized tribes.

It is the primary source of water for more than 40 million people and irrigates nearly 5.5million acres of agriculture lands. The river is divided into the Upper and Lower Basins as a result of the 1922 Colorado River Compact.



Gov Lewis delivers an address, during the Tribal Leaders Forum on Oct. 28. At right, Lt. Gov. Antone talk about the importance of water to the Community, while joined by (below) District 5 Council Representatives Wahlean Riggs and Brian Davis. Emma Hughes/GRIN



In August, The Department of Interior declared the first ever water shortage for the Colorado River due to low water elevation in the lower basin, Lake Mead, which serves parts of Arizona, Nevada, California, southwestern Utah, and western New Mexico.

“We should be involved in water management decisions to support sustainable actions that preserve and efficiently use the shared resources of the Colorado River Basin,” said Gov. Lewis.

The impetus of the meeting allowed tribal leaders and representative a

chance to better understand shared interests and concerns and how best to determine a solution and framework. Updates on the upper and lower basin were also provided.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, along with District 5 Council Representatives, Wahlean Riggs and Brian Davis Sr., were also present for the discussion, sharing some of their concerns about the impact of the shortage on agriculture, which has already experienced some adversity.

The shortage declaration probes water cutbacks in the coming year that will mostly affect Arizona farmers



and has also brought into discussion a second Drought Contingency Plan to address the crisis.

Tribal, federal agencies and stake holders throughout the basin continue to work together on finding new and creative ways to reduce the effects of the drought.

Gov. Lewis Addresses National Indigenous Women’s Conference



Gov. Lewis stands in solidarity with the Medicine Wheel Riders, a group of women who brings awareness to pressing issue that impact indigenous people. The MWR group rode their motorcycles to the conference on Nov. 5. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A conference on indigenous women’s empowerment and wellness brought individuals from across the nation to the Vee Quiva Hotel & Casino on Nov. 5. The Native American Women’s Conference (NAWC), organized with the coordination of multiple programs and agencies, focused on three core values: “Health Wellness & Healing,” “Ca-

reer and Life Purpose” and “Leadership and Life Planning.”

Each of the three pillars were presented through breakout sessions that provided attendees with the resources needed to succeed in life.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis opened the conference by describing women as the caretakers and wisdom-keepers of Native communities. “It means as a leader and a man, I need to

listen and be humbled in order to lead the way forward for all of our people.”

Gov. Lewis emphasized the resilience of indigenous people, saying that no matter the challenge – interactions with colonization, the taking of important resources or enduring through the pandemic, Natives have always had the ability to withstand crisis.

“We’ve always been resilient, that is the history of [our] people,” said Gov.

Lewis. “We have always been there for one another, through historical trauma, through the boarding schools and even not so long ago with the reclaiming of our water rights.”

Many conference presenters and topics focused on resiliency and breaking the stigma about what it means to be an indigenous woman in the 21st century. The presentations centered on interviewing skills,

exploring holistic modalities to healing and being a successful entrepreneur with a start-up business. The issue of missing and murdered indigenous women (MMIW) was also discussed at length.

Gov. Lewis called MMIW an important issue being brought to light with the support of advocates from tribal communities and U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland at the federal level. “I am glad that

we have such a great turnout here, our Native sisters that are at the forefront of today’s issues,” said Lewis.

The Gov. Lewis also spoke about the responsibility to pass along cultural knowledge, resiliency and strength during these critical times.

Gov. Lewis said, “We can stop the generational cycle of oppression, abuse, addictions and trauma.”



COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • November 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, November 3, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:02 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Wahlean Riggs

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 (9:12), Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE NEW BUSINESS #1, #7, AND #10 AND RESOLUTION #10 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL; DISPENSE NEW BUSINESS #11

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #3 AND #4, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1, #4, #6 THROUGH #9, #12 AND #13 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction of Case Management Coordinator- Nadia Huff

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Nadia Huff

MR. ISAAC SALCIDO INTRODUCED MS. NADIA HUFF AS THE NEWLY HIRED CASE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR. MS. HUFF COMES FROM DISTRICT 4 AND IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY. VARIOUS COUNCIL EXPRESSED WORDS OF SUPPORT.

2. Introduction of K-12 Education Manager-Lance Reyna

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Lance Reyna

MR. ISAAC SALCIDO INTRODUCED MR. LANCE REYNA. MR. REYNA COMES FROM DISTRICT 2 AND WAS PREVIOUSLY A TEACHER AT GILA CROSSING COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL. MR. REYNA CHOSE HIS CAREER IN EDUCATION AFTER SERVING IN THE ARMY. MR. REYNA IS HUMBLER TO BE WORKING WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS, LT. GOVERNOR ANTONE AND GOVERNOR EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

REPORTS

1. Kekel Ha Ñeo'ok Project Summary

Presenter: Anthony Gray

REPORT HEARD

2. COVID-19 Update

Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force

REPORT HEARD

{GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:03 A.M.}

>3. Head Start Monthly Report September 2021

Presenter: Carolina B. Kelley

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2020-2021

Presenters: Lillian Kim Franklin, Jeff Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Presenters: Gaming Commission Board, M. Scott Sanderson, Lydia Acosta

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #5 AND #6

6. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report September 2021 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Tony DeMark, Richard Strafella, Dominic Orozco, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #5

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Approving A Program-Funded State And Local Task Force Agreement Between The Gila River Police Department And The United States Department Of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Timothy Chavez, Jesse Crabtree

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. A Resolution Approving Amendments To The Bylaws Of The Gila River Indian Community's Council Of Elders(G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; LSC and HSSC concur)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Lindsay Antone, Joyce McAfee, Rebecca Hall

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Vaccine Incentive Program For Community Members As A General Welfare Program Of The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; HSSC concurs)

Presenters: Governor Stephen R. Lewis, Treasurer Robert Keller, Suzanne Jones, Thomas Murphy

APPROVED

>4. A Resolution Declaring Intention To Reimburse Certain Expenditures With Borrowing Proceeds For The New District 4 Public Safety Facility (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. A Resolution Approving The Acceptance Of Eight Modular Buildings From The Bureau Of Indian Affairs (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Suzanne Jones, Rebecca Hall

APPROVED

>6. A Resolution Modifying The Use And Distribution Of Monies From The Gila River Indian Community Permanent Water Fund And Water Settlement Fund For The Operations Of The Gila River Indian Irrigation And Drainage District For The Purchase Of Central Arizona Project Water In Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying An Intergovernmental Agreement Between Pinal County, Arizona, And Gila River Indian Community, A Sovereign Nation, To Upgrade Stop Signs And Advanced Stop Ahead Warning Signs (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Gregory McDowell

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying An Intergovernmental Agreement Between Maricopa County And The Gila River Indian Community For Improvements To Baseline Road From 79th Avenue To 83rd Avenue Alignment & 83rd Avenue To The District Seven Service Center (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the

consent agenda)

Presenter: Gregory McDowell

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. A Resolution Designating And Approving 19.3858 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land Located In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Community For The Development And Construction Of A Tribal Subdivision As Shown In Drawing #40418-0412B-TP (NRSC forwards for to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Samantha Johnson, Corinna Ortiz, Kimberly Antone, Sandra Thayer, Linda Andrews, Deanna Mendoza

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Kornelius Michael John Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Kornelius John

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

11. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Benjamin Cy Pedro Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with amendments)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

APPROVED

>12. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For John Arthur Pecusa Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>13. A Resolution Approving The Appointment Of Antoinette Enos As A Children's Court Judge For The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

14. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Agreement With The Sacaton Elementary School District To Provide Services To Children With Disabilities, Ages 3 Through 5, And Their Families (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Joann Fields

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Gila River Boys & Girls Club Board of Director One (1) Appointment

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT KATIE JOAQUIN

NEW BUSINESS

1. A Cover Letter With Motion Language Approving A Five Year Extension Of The Gila River Indian Irrigation And Drainage District And The P-MIP Engaging In Pit Reclamation Along The Southside Canal And Within The Canal Right-Of-Way Within The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards for to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: David DeJong, Ron Allison, Ryan Eberle

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Carry Forward Balance for Sacaton Elementary School (ESC motioned to approve with amendments to the letter and to forward to Council under New Business as FYI)

Presenters: Stephanie Celis, Dr. Lynette Michalski, Jeffery Thornburg

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AS INFORMATION

Continued from Page 7

- 3. Carry Forward Balance for Sacaton Middle School (ESC motioned to approve with amendments to the letter and to forward to Council under New Business as FYI)
Presenters: Bright Benson, Dr. Lynette Michalski, Jeffery Thornburg
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AS INFORMATION
- 4. Blackwater Community School Tribal Allocation Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Jagdish Sharma
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
- 5. Sacaton Elementary School Tribal Allocation Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval with amendments)
Presenters: Stephanie Celis, Dr. Lynette Michalski
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
- 6. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Allocation Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval with amendments)
Presenters: Bright Benson, Dr. Lynette Michalski
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
- 7. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation

- Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval with amendments)
Presenters: Lillian Kim Franklin, Jeffrey Thornburg
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 8. Saint Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Allocation Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
- 9. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Allocation Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Jim Mosley
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
- 10. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. New Property Name For Fourth Gaming Facility (CRSC forwards to Council as information)
Presenter: Kenneth Manuel
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- *11. Gila River Indian Irrigation Drainage District (GRIIDD) Follow Up Audit (Executive Session) (NRSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session)
Presenters: Dena Thomas, Robert Keller
DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 12. Revenue Internal Audit (RIA) FY2021 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)
Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert Keller
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT NEW BUSINESS #13 AND #13
- 13. Gaming Internal Audit (GIA) FY2021 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)
Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert Keller
ACCEPTED AT NEW BUSINESS #12
MINUTES
ANNOUNCEMENTS
~GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE WORK SESSION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 AT 10AM
~FARM BOARD TASK FORCE MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 AT 1PM
~SPECIAL HOUSING OWNERS TEAM MEETING FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2021
ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:52 P.M.
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

2021 HOLIDAY GATHERINGS COVID-19 SAFETY & PREVENTION TIPS

It is the priority of the Gila River Indian Community to avoid transmission of COVID-19 and save as many lives as possible during the pandemic. For the health and safety of our Community, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Holiday Pandemic Guidelines are based on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, GRIC Tribal Health Department, Gila River Health Care and members of the Governor's COVID-19 Taskforce Incident Management Team.

Do's:

- Wear a well fitted facemask that covers your nose and mouth, physically distance, and wash your hands frequently.
- If you are having a meal with others that do not live with you while abiding by the gathering size, the meal should be outside with physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Participate in drive-thru distributions or virtual events as much as possible during the holidays to limit contact with others.
- Strongly recommend hosting a virtual Thanksgiving party to celebrate with extended family and friends.
- Employee luncheons should abide by the gathering size, the meal should be outside with physical distancing of at least 6 feet and meals to be provided by a licensed kitchen. In-person gatherings should be limited. Strongly recommend hosting a virtual activity.
- Shopping for gifts online if you are not fully vaccinated or have a weakened immune system.
- Even if you are fully vaccinated, limit shopping in poorly ventilated spaces/areas or where you are not able to physically distance from others.
- Create new ways to celebrate - with family and friends that live outside of your home - such as virtually playing games or sharing recipes with family and friends.
- Getting vaccinated, if you're eligible, is the best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safe.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have a close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- If you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19, follow all guidance from your healthcare provider.

Avoid:

- Person-to-person contact with others that do not live with you.
- Avoid crowded and poorly ventilated spaces/areas.
- Attending any in-person celebration if you or someone in your household is sick.
- Exchanging food dishes with other households.

ALL ACTIVITY MUST ABIDE BY AMENDED EXECUTIVE ORDER #12
By working together, we can enjoy safer holidays and protect our own health as well as the health of our family and friends.

Submissions & Notices

Call for Artists

Press Release
Tela Art Resource

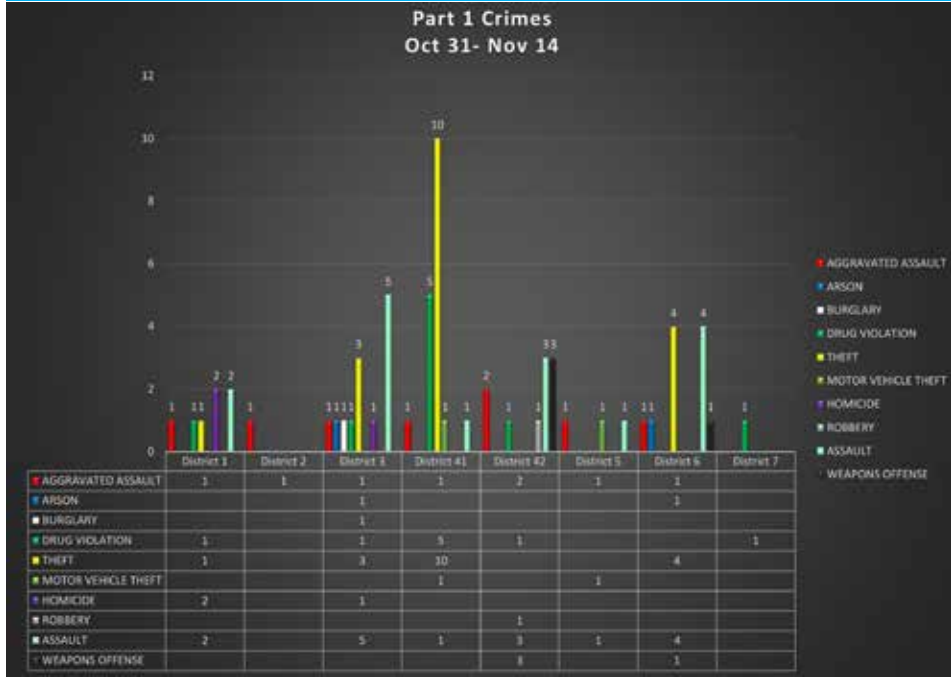
The Gila River Indian Community is excited to announce the new Santan Mountain Casino just starting construction. This beautifully designed space will need artwork from Pima (Akimel O'Otham) and Maricopa

(Pee-Posh) artisans. We are looking for artists from the Gila River Indian Community working in all styles and media, including paintings on paper and canvas, tile mosaics, murals, drawings, photography, sculpture, basketry, pottery, carvings, and weavings. Our design team is looking for artwork that will reflect the cultural themes that will be incorporated into the facility.

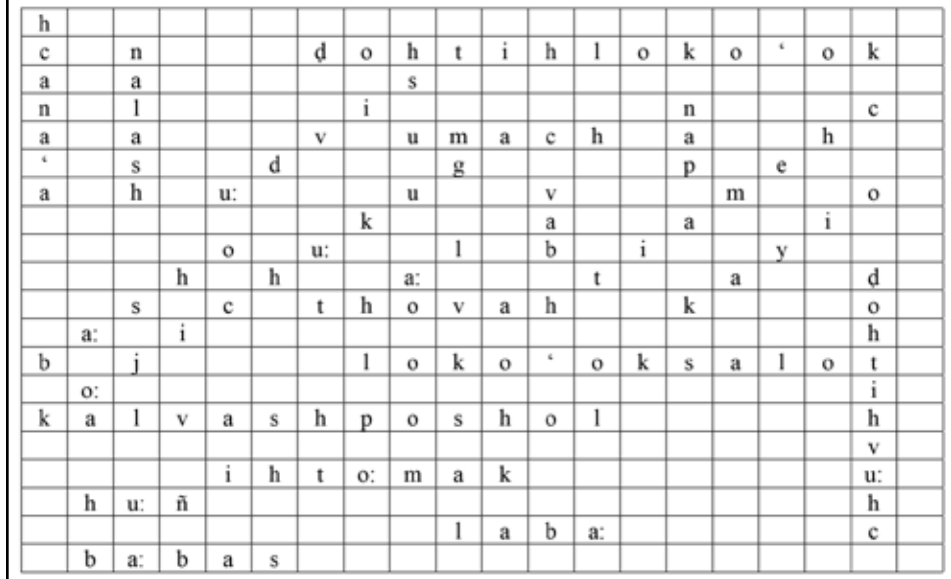
artists on December 4 from 12pm to 5pm, at the Shelde Building (5710 W. North Loop Rd. Chandler AZ 85226). Come take a look at the project and opportunities for artwork! Please bring photos/examples of your work to share with us. We will not be purchasing anything at the open house. For more information please call Laurie Post at 602-243-4300, or email Laurie at LPost@TelaArt.com

We will host an open house for

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

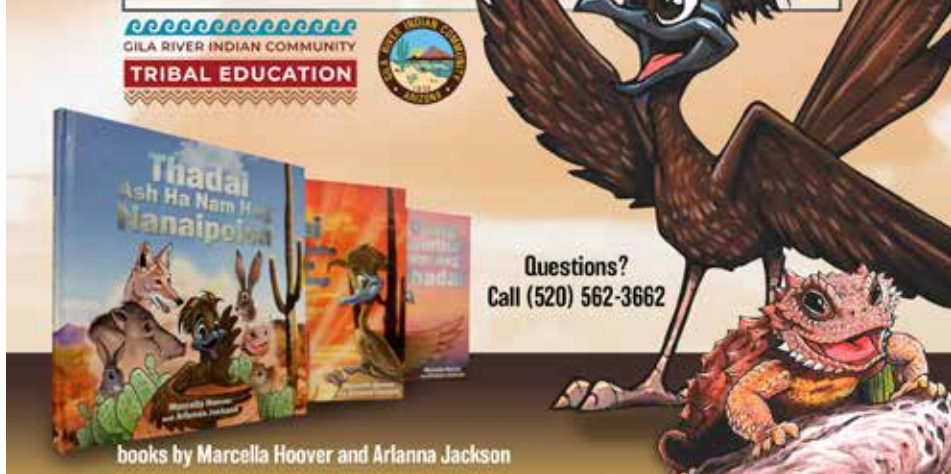


Thova Thash Word Search 2021- SOLUTION!



First 50 households only! Deadline Nov. 30.

VIRTUAL READING & ACTIVITIES
Join us for three days in December!
December 7, 9, & 14
6pm - 7pm
Sign up now and 3 books and activities packets will be mailed to your household! **FOR FREE!**
LINK TO REGISTER:
<https://bit.ly/3kbyxLI>



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

NOTICE
2022 Agricultural Lease Payment

In compliance with SRPMIC Emergency Declaration Directives for COVID-19, the 2022 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.

On Friday, January 21, 2022, Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Finance Department. Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729
(staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Arizona time)
The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 17, 2021.
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 21, 2022. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 17, 2021.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed. Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 21, 2022.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.
**Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received by January 3, 2022.*

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
HEAD START

NOW ENROLLING
SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

Head Start and Early Head Start is a comprehensive program currently providing virtual services through distance learning in the community for 0-5.

Children's Services

- Quality Education
- Health Screenings
- Dental Screenings
- Nutritious Food
- Culture Activities
- Independence
- Engaging Activities
- Structured Schedule

Family Services

- Parent Activities
- Parent Education
- Community Resources
- Fatherhood Activities
- Enrollment intake conducted via Phone, Zoom Video or In-Person

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE HEAD START CENTER IN THE DISTRICT YOU RESIDE:

Sacaton Head Start
Family Advocate
(520) 610-5293

Vah Ki Head Start
Family Advocate
(520) 610-5537

Komatke Head Start
Family Advocate
EHS (520) 610-7014
HS (520) 610-4976

Santan Head Start
Family Advocate
EHS (520) 610-5432
HS (520) 610-5533

Child Care Center
Family Advocate
(520) 562-3640



Crossroads Auto Center Humbly Says

Thank you

VETERANS

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



2018 Ford Expedition
Super Hard to Find

ALL
Veterans
Get these
Special
Offers

\$2,000
Minimum
for
Your Trade*

0
DOWN*

No
Payments
Until
February*

Offer good through November 2021.

**2015 Chevy
Sonic**



\$199/mo.

**2017 Kia
Forte**



\$225/mo.

**2018 Chevy
Traverse**



**3rd Row &
All the Room**

**2020 Kia
Sportage**



**LOW MILES
\$299/mo.**

**2018 Dodge
Charger**



Super Clean!

**2019 Nissan
Sentra SV**



**GREAT GAS MILEAGE
\$255/mo.**

**2018 Dodge
Challenger**



**Hard to Find
Black on Black**

**2018 Hyundai
Elantra**



**SAVE MONEY AT
\$315/mo.**

**2017 Nissan
Altima SR**



**Sport and
Affordable**

2019 Ram



YES It's A 4X4!!!

**2018 Toyota
Tacoma**



6 Cylinder

**2017 Ford
F150**



**3.5 Ecoboost
and 4x4**



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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Winter Bird Count Data Collection

6 Sites Throughout Community



Date: December 4th, 2021

Time: 7:30am - 10:30am

*Click here to Sign-Up
(Limited Spots Available!!!)*

December 1st Deadline

SCAN ME





START YOUR WINNING CAREER AT GILA RIVER HOTELS & CASINOS

Meet with our HR team and discover your next career today!

This is your opportunity to start a fulfilling career at the Valley's most exciting entertainment destination! We at Gila River Hotels & Casinos take pride in our high level of attention to guest service and our positive impact on communities around Arizona. If you are looking for a fun, fastpaced work environment, a position at one of our three locations along the 202 freeway will be perfect for you! Visit our hiring event to see if Gila River Hotels & Casinos is a good fit for you!



Hiring Event

December 7, 2021
9AM-3PM

Gila River Hotels & Casinos—Vee Quiva

15091 S. Komatke Lane
Laveen Village, AZ 85339

GILA RIVER[®]
HOTELS & CASINOS



vee quiva • wild horse pass • lone butte



@PlayAtGila | PlayAtGila.com | 800-WIN-GILA
Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community