

EVERY SHOT COUNTS



#MobileVax #CommunityImmunity



THE GRIN



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NOVEMBER 5, 2021

Community Breaks Ground on Historic Fourth Valley Casino

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Hotels & Casinos broke ground on the Community's fourth casino, "Santan Mountain" on Monday, Oct. 18, during a ceremony attended by GRIC and state leaders to mark the historic occasion.

"We've always been leaders in gaming," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during the event. "We're the first tribe that's going to be able to really start to implement our compacts. This is an exciting time because it means more jobs for our community. It also means we're going to bring a lot of infrastructure to this area as well – roads, power and water."

The new casino, which was part of the new gaming compacts signed by Arizona Gov. Ducey in



Gov Lewis, Lt. Gov. Antone and members of Community Council broke ground at the site of the Santan Mountain casino on Oct. 18. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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MAR 5 Tour Helps Conference Attendees Learn the Story of the Gila River

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Members from the Gila River Indian Community and Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP) came together to tell the story of the Gila River recently when faculty members, students and visiting attendees from the University of Arizona toured the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5.

The Oct. 22 tour was an extension of the U of A Water Research Review Conference that was held in August. The tour was a chance for the conference attendees to get a firsthand look at how the Community is utilizing its water rights while giving back to the Gila River through MAR 5.

"P-MIP was tasked with constructing the canal system on behalf of the Community and this fine facility, MAR 5," said David DeJong, PMIP Director, who facilitated the tour. "I think you are all in for a real treat to see how the Community is restoring a portion of the river and restoring

the underground aquifer."

Gov. Stephen Row Lewis, who attended, explained that MAR 5 was a vision of his father, the late Rodney B. Lewis, who led the Community's years-long water litigation and wanted to see the Community's water rights transformed into more meaningful project.

"When MAR 5 was first conceived, we wanted to be meticulous and respectful about how [we] developed this site into what you see here today," said Gov. Lewis. "It has become a really special place for me and for the Community. I know every one of you will feel the same from your own perspective, as you see the 'layers' of culture presented today."

Gov. Lewis lauded DeJong and the P-MIP staff for their tireless work in laying the groundwork for the Community's comprehensive water delivery system, that nearly spans the length of GRIC.

"(DeJong) does a great job with P-MIP, which has been very



Yolanda Elias from District 6, demonstrates to U of A conference attendees, how she uses harvest plants from the MAR 5 site to produce traditional O'otham baskets. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

successful in building out the large infrastructure of canal systems through the Community, that are essentially state-of-the art," said Gov. Lewis.

Henrietta Lopez, a Community elder from District 4 and former Public Involvement Specialist for P-MIP, was present to talk about the MAR 5 project

from her perspective. "It's a beautiful project that is out here in our community, that

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Pg. 5 Arts & Entertainment:
A.B. Quintanilla Talks
COVID-19 and Vaccinations

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COVID-19 VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Community Council approved Governor Stephen Roe Lewis' proposal on a Vaccination Incentive Program for Gila River Indian Community members age 18 and older who have become fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

The Vaccine Incentive Payment process is underway and more information will be provided shortly to meet the application deadline of January 31, 2022. The GRIC COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program will be for \$500 and is an effort to increase vaccination rates in the Community. Payments are expected to begin around November 18, 2021.

For additional inquiries contact the GRIC Per Capita Office at (520) 562-5222, toll free at (866) 416-2618 or by email at gricvaccineincentive@gric.nsn.us or gricpercapita@gric.nsn.us.





Governor

Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor

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Native American Journalists Association

O'odham Veterans Celebration Honors Veterans with Drive-thru Stand Down

Kyle Knox

Gila River Indian News

On Saturday, Oct. 16, veterans and families lined up at the Sacaton fairgrounds to receive gifts and honors as part of this year's O'odham Veterans Celebration (OVC) "Stand Down" event. From 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., OVC distributed food relief packages, PPE, and military supplies to all veterans in attendance.

"Our main purpose is to serve the Native veterans because sometimes we get left out of services," said Douglas Juan, District 5, U.S. Army veteran and the Chairman of Gila River O'odham Veterans. "So we're trying to build that up for our Native Veterans, starting in August at different sites with different events until November."

This year, the stand down was held drive-thru style for item distribution, with booths from local veterans' groups also lining the driveway to provide incentives and program information. In addition, GRIC Veterans and Family Services and U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs Native American Program from Tucson Arizona, staff set-up booths. They provided updates on new programming and services available for all to utilize.

Over the years, OVC has become inclusive of all O'odham sister tribes. OVC invites its veterans to be a part of their stand-



Volunteers from the O'odham Veterans Celebration Association helped hand-out items to GRIC veterans, during the OVC drive-thru event on Oct. 16. Kyle Knox/GRIN

downs while also assisting and hosting similar events in their communities.

"We came on board with the OVC to reach out and get more resources. It's a really great program to be a part of," said Jacob Trevino with the Tohono O'odham Veterans Affairs Program and a retired U.S. Air Force serviceman. "It's amazing and an extreme honor to help these veterans, give them these resources and check in with them. The more veterans that come out the better because we get more outreach, and they know we're here for them."

To date, their stand down

events have become renowned in the region. Recently, the OVC was tasked to provide technical assistance with similar distribution events as far as Navajo Mountain near the Arizona and Utah border on the Navajo Nation. For that event, they secured supplies for 30 veteran families.

Before the pandemic, the O'odham Veterans Celebration served as a gathering place for veterans and their families to learn more about the services afforded to them. The event also allows veterans to gather in a unique setting that acknowledges their service and builds on the camaraderie

often found among one another.

"We do anything we can to support our veterans through events like this, and it makes me feel good because veterans are the ones who fought for our freedom," said Doreen Atkinson-Juan, OVC Secretary, who coordinated much of the day's resources and supplies. Atkinson-Juan said she was thrilled with the turnout.

With Veteran's Day on the horizon, OVC plans to host a similar distribution event to mark the occasion. The Christmas holiday will provide another opportunity for programming with gifts in addition to the stand down supplies

GRIC MVU Program Continues to Vaccinate Community Members Young and Old

Gila River Indian News Staff

Mobile Vaccination Unit events continue most weekends throughout the Community, with Districts 4 and 6 seeing significant numbers turnout for vaccinations at events held over the past two weeks.

On Oct. 16, in District 4, 27 individuals received a vaccination, including many young people. With people under the age of 40 having the highest infection rates, getting more young people vaccinated has proven to be the best protection for slowing the spread of COVID-19 and moving GRIC closer to "Community Immunity."

Staff also provided flu shots for anyone who wanted one during the COVID vaccination event. District 4 also provided attendees with a \$25 gift card incentive.

Faith Johns, District 5, recently relocated back to the Community from Oregon and took advantage of the MVU. "I got it for my family since most of my family has the vaccine, so I feel good now that I have it too," said Johns, who urged more people to get the vaccine so we can all get back to some "normalcy" and stay safe from this dangerous virus.

"I waited to see how the first nine months of vaccinations looked for people and decided it was time for me to get it," said Katrina Soke, District 6, who received her first vaccine shot with her daughter that morning. "I got the vaccine to feel safer for my family and be safe when I work,



GRIC youth, Michael Johnson holds-up his shirt sleeve to show support for vaccinations at the D4 MVU on Oct. 16. Kyle Knox/GRIN

travel, and to keep the Community safe."

Soke's daughter Alexia, 12 years old, got her first vaccine dose. She said it felt like any other typical shot. With the vaccine, she now looks forward to traveling again with her family.

While vaccination rates are steadily increasing, infections in the Community continue to occur. Increased vaccinations are vital as we head into the holiday season since small family gatherings can be a primary cause of COVID-19 infections. The Community expects to see an increase in attendance at the MVU events as booster shot eligibility include more age ranges.

Mobile Vaccination Unit events will continue throughout

the year as the need for increased vaccination rates remains a primary goal for the public health and safety of the Community. This is likely to include vaccines for children ages 5 and up in the coming months, depending on rulings by the Centers for Disease Control.

At a GRIC MVU event held at the Vee Quiva Hotel & Casino parking lot in District 6 on Oct. 23, close to 20 Community members and individuals from other tribal communities came out to get vaccinated.

The attendees had varying reasons for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, from finding a place of normalcy among friends and family to being able to attend entertainment events and travel.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone was present to receive her third shot at the MVU. "Today, I got my third booster of the Pfizer vaccine, being that I am six months out from receiving my last booster."

She said that keeping up with her booster shots is important for health reasons and to help towards "Community Immunity," or "Family Immunity," as she described it. Lt. Gov. Antone said her concern is for the Community's children, some of whom are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

"It is very important that I take this vaccine, not only for my well-being, but for my family. We do know that there are many variants of COVID out there with the potential to affect our community. With the many deaths in our community, I encourage everyone to get vaccinated," said Lt. Gov. Antone.

Vanessa Carlyle, a District 6 resident, also attended. "I've been wanting it, but I was waited to see how everyone else reacted to it, when they got vaccinated," she said of the vaccine. "I was a little scared, but I decided to go get it, with a little more time understanding about the vaccine."

Latisha Barlow, a member of the Navajo Nation, said going to concerts and being able to watch her favorite bands perform live are things she wants to experience after getting fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"At first, I was apprehensive about the vaccine, but since I am

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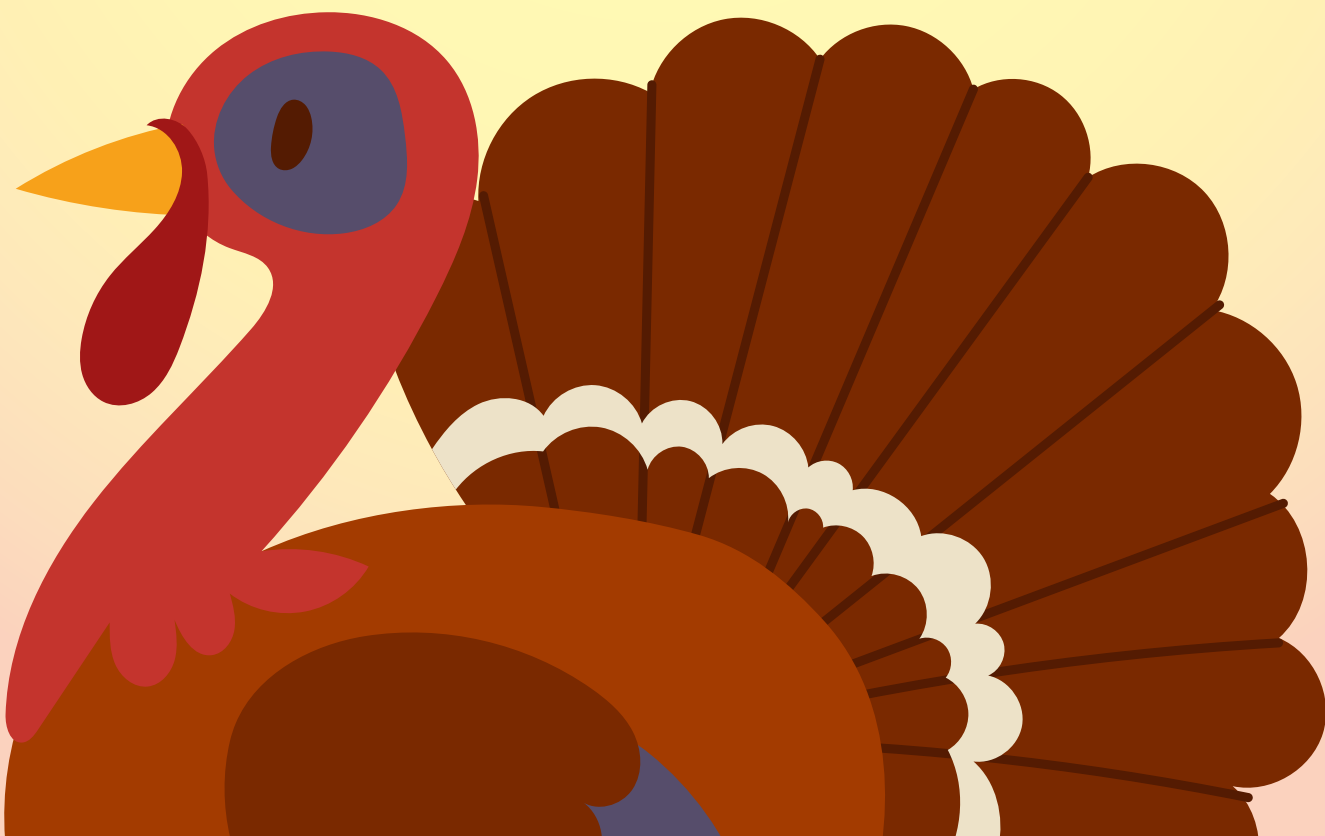


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Arts & Entertainment

Producer A.B. Quintanilla Shares Message for Vaccines on a Visit to GRIC

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Tejano superstar producer A.B. Quintanilla made a stop in the Community for a concert to impart words on how COVID-19 has affected his life. Quintanilla has been visiting the Community for the last nine years and hopes to encourage vaccinations within the Community, which he calls his “Rez Family.”

“My Gila River Rez family, we all have decisions we have to make. I am not here to tell you to do something you don’t want to do, but from personal experience, getting vaccinated is a good thing,” said Quintanilla. “And the sooner we all get vaccinated, the sooner we can go back to being normal again, and that’s what I want to see.”

During his visit, Quintanilla shared the story of his best friend Noe “Gipper” Nieto’s tragic

passing on Sept. 11. Nieto was a fellow musician and accordion player for his bands The Kumbia Kings and Kumbia Kings All Starz, spanning 25 years. Reflecting on the loss, Quintanilla compared Gipper’s passing to that of his younger sister, legendary Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, in 1995.

“Recently, I lost a brother to Coronavirus. He [Nieto] opted not to get the vaccination, and unfortunately for that decision, he is no longer here with us,” said Quintanilla. “These are decisions we all have to make ourselves, you can’t be forced to do it, but I opted to do it because of the fact that I’m in contact with a lot of people with my job.”

Quintanilla talked in detail about losing Nieto. “I’m telling you from personal experience, I have seen what this virus can do,” he said. “I’m with my friend [Nieto] performing

in Vegas, he comes home, quarantines, two days later he’s in the hospital. A couple days later he’s intubated, then life support and then he went just like that in the blink of an eye.”

While many remain hesitant about getting a vaccination, Quintanilla strongly encourages the Community to consider getting the shot.

For Quintanilla, the decision to vaccinate was not a question for him. Throughout his career, Quintanilla realized how often he comes into close contact with people. From musicians, fans, and in concert settings, he said he is no stranger to catching colds or eye infections from brief encounters with fans.

When Quintanilla learned of the Community’s vaccination efforts, he implored anyone considering a vaccination to take advantage of the Mobile Vaccination Unit events. He also reminded



A.B. Quintanilla serenades an audience during a recent concert held on the Community. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Community members that fortunate.

“If you decide a vaccination is for you,” he said, “there are the

MVUs that will answer any questions you have and also give you a vaccination.”

GRIC Member Shares Moment of Success with the Community, Intends to go Pro

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis with MMA fighter Deran Martinez from District 5. Martinez recently defeated George Sopi at the Celebrity Theater in Phoenix for the Heavyweight title promoted by Ringside Unified Fighting. Martinez

has won three consecutive fights. Since then, Deran has signed with First Round Management. According to a post on his Instagram page, Martinez said, “I am very excited and honored to have the opportunity to work with a

great team!” Martinez added, that he is thankful for the support of the Community. You can follow Martinez’s journey on Instagram @chukud_mma.

Photo by Jaime Jackson/CPAO



Casino Ground-breaking Front Page

April, will be located on the southeast corner of Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway. The facility is anticipated to be completed in 18 to 24 months.

The venue will feature over 850 table and slot games, including roulette, mini baccarat and craps. It also will include an exclusive High Limit Gaming Salon, a BetMGM Sportsbook, and dining and entertainment areas. The new casino will create more than 650 additional jobs for the Community. A hotel also may be added in the future.

“Gaming has always been a strong economic engine for our people,” said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, who said she considered the fourth casino “long overdue.” She emphasized

the vast economic impact and growth the casino will have on the Community in the long run.

“This is an area where I grew up in, so I am especially proud of what we’re doing and what we’re building for the community,” said Kenneth Manuel, CEO of Gila River Hotels & Casinos, who discussed the exciting opportunity for both the casino and the Community.

Gila River Hotels & Casinos hired international architectural and interior design firm, Steelman Partners, and The PENTA Building Group to handle design and construction of the new casino along with TynanGroup as project lead.

Manuel said the innovative architecture and design has the ability to “really capture what the mountain holds and the beauty of the mountain.”

“We work as a team



A graphic rendering of the Santan Mountain casino, provides viewers a glimpse of what it will look like when completed. Image courtesy of Steelman Partners.

with the Community departments and groups to realize and bring these things to fruition,” said Barney Enos Jr, Executive Director of Casino Expansion Owners Team.

Enos thanked

a number of GRIC departments, among them

Land Use Planning and Zoning, Building Safety, and the Department of Public Works. He said unprecedented teamwork contributed to “making this

a seamless and calculated effort.”

Later this year, Gila River Hotels & Casinos will also unveil a \$143 million expansion project at Wild Horse Pass, featuring 205 additional guest

rooms, meeting spaces, two swimming pools and a rooftop restaurant and lounge set. It will be the first expansion since the property opened in 2009.

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pregnant, I have heard a lot of recommendations for women in my case," said Barlow, who also said being around family motivated her to get vaccinated. "I get why some people are against the vaccine, but a lot of people I know have been vaccinated and it made me want to consider getting vaccinated."

Other individuals pointed out other reasons for getting vaccinated and what it means to work towards "Community Immunity."

"The reason I got my shot today was because I see other places getting hit hard by COVID and we don't know exactly how things will be these next couple of months and year," said Julian Morago from District 6. Morago said he sought the vaccine to protect his family against COVID-19, and



Tyrone Begay from Yakima Washington, shows-off his recent vaccination at the D4 MVU on Oct. 16. Kyle Knox/GRIN

also for the Community as a whole – to hopefully one day see families coming together to celebrate various events.

"It's actually my third shot," said Jennifer Brewer, a member of the Oglala

Lakota tribe. "I have elderly parents and I spend a lot of my time with mother and mother in-law, so I want to make sure that I don't spread [it] (COVID-19) to them."

She said that traveling



Lt. Gov. Antone receives her third COVID-19 vaccine at the Vee Quiva MVU on Oct. 23, urging Community members to get vaccinated. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

to visit her daughter, who is attending college in Chicago, was another contributing factor to her reason to get a booster shot. "With be-

ing vaccinated, I know that am not going to get her sick or my own community sick with the virus. I am also an ex-smoker, so I know if

I did get COVID, I would most likely end up on a ventilator and that is something I don't want."

Pandemic Funeral Guidance Available For Families Who Must Bury Loved Ones

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

As families across the Gila River Indian Community adapt to life during the COVID-19 pandemic, understanding how to facilitate funeral services for a loved one can be of great importance.

The GRIC Community Services Department has assisted families conducting funerals throughout the pandemic, emphasizing the importance of social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during such a highly emotional time.

"It's a difficult time, and it is understandable, [they] would like to have as many family members as possible attend," said Laurie Thomas, CSD Director. Thomas said her department and the District Service Center assist GRIC families while reiterating the Community's current guidelines governing large gatherings.

When a loved one passes away and families seek assistance from their District Service Center, the centers provide a funeral guidance packet compiled by the Tribal Health Department. The packet includes a reminder to limiting gatherings to no more than 15 people and to use personal protective equipment like masks in such situations.

"We really try to encourage the funeral services to just the immediate family, the family of the deceased, in making funeral arrangements," said Thomas.

The emphasis on social distancing and PPE is in place to protect family

members and District Service Center workers, Thomas explained, to keep one and all safe during their time of need.

"More people who attend a funeral or (who do) not practice social distancing can put service center staff at risk of exposure to COVID-19," said Thomas. "We encourage families and staff to use PPE during their time helping families at funerals."

For those who have attended a funeral in the Community, a common practice is for several family members to gather around the grave of their loved when they are lowered to rest. With the current state of the pandemic and how easy it is to spread the virus, Thomas said this increases the risk of spreading COVID-19 among several members of the family.

Though some social norms and customs are hard to refrain from doing, CSD in coordination with the service centers provides a small tent, 15 chairs and two tables. Families also have the option of utilizing a FM transmitter, which allows attendees to dial into the station from within the confines of their vehicle in order to maintain social distancing.

Thomas said there have been instances where more than one funeral has occurred at the same time. This has required the districts to work with other service centers to get an additional FM transmitter and additional resources.

"The goal is to support the executive orders to prevent the further spreading of COVID-19," said Thomas. "The district

personnel take it very seriously to ensure that everybody is well-educated and aware of the limits and the current processes and procedures. We're ensuring that we do our part to support the Governor's executive orders."

As Thomas explains it, the funeral orders and the education on social distancing has one primary goal: For service centers to ease the burden on grieving

families while mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

"We understand and we try to empathize with the families so all of their needs are met and we try to support them in every way [we] can," said Thomas. "It's just really hard right now and times have changed. This illness has definitely threatened everyone's lives and we are adapting to [this] new norm."

To speak with a district

service center staff member in your district, here are the contact numbers:

- Community Services Department : (520) 562-9691
- District #1 Service Center: (520) 215-2110
- District #2 Service Center (520) 562-3450
- District #3 Service Center: (520) 562-

3334

- District #4 Service Center: (520) 418-3661
- District #5 Service Center: (520) 315-3441
- District #6 Service Center: (520) 550-3805
- District #7 Service Center: (520) 430-4780

COVID-19 Guidance

How is the COVID-19 virus spreading in our Community?

- Contact tracing data shows the virus is being spread mostly by small family gatherings such as parties being held at home. During these gatherings, the individuals are generally spending time with each other while eating and drinking. Eating and drinking with anyone outside your home and not physically distancing poses a high risk for contracting the virus.
- Funerals or wakes continue to be an area of concern with individuals stating they are attending either meetings for the preparation of the service or attending the service or more than often it's both.

What can you do to protect yourself and your family?

- Public Place Exposure: Unless absolutely necessary, avoid places where ventilation may be poor.
- Outdoor Events: Avoid places where more than 15 people are gathering and you are not able to physically distance.
- Indoor events: Places with poor ventilation, pose more risk than outdoor events.

Funeral Guidelines & Contact Tracing:

Abide by the funeral guidelines which can be found on the GRHC.ORG/HUB or at your local District Service Center.

Contact tracing conducted by the GRIC Tribal Health Department has proven that funeral attendance has directly increased positive COVID-19 cases.

Prevention Measures:

- Wear a face mask
- Physical distance
- Wash your hands
- Stay home when sick
- Get tested
- Get vaccinated

IT IS ALL OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE, EVEN THOSE THAT WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY, LIKE THE EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT WHO ARE ESSENTIAL DURING BURIAL SERVICE.

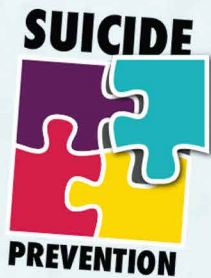
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MAR 5 Visit Front Page

has long been awaited by our Community members.”

Lopez said with the completion of MAR 5 and the interpretive trail comes the return of native vegetation that is special to the Community.

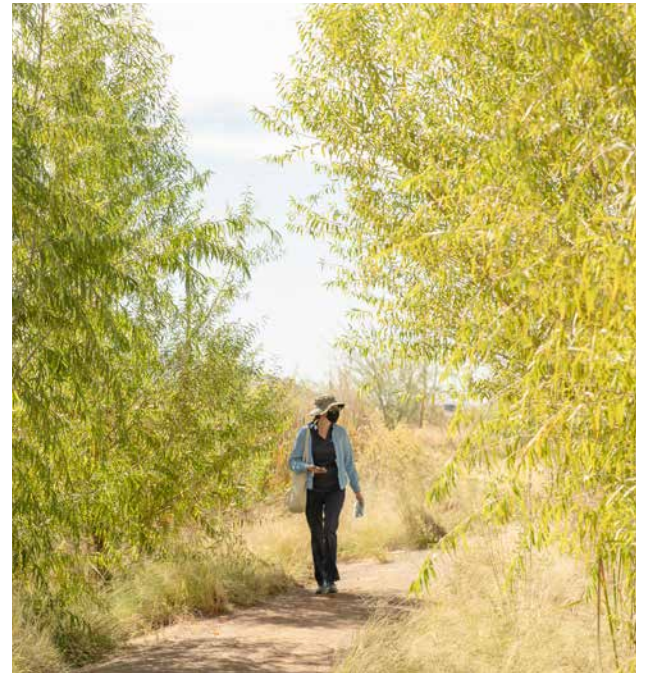
“[Here] what you see is a place where our plants that benefit us in many ways are flourishing,” she explained.

The plants at the MAR 5 interpretive trail range from Shugoi, cattail, willow to other plants of medicinal and artistic use, many of which are important materials used by O’otham basket makers.

“If you want to make baskets, you’re going to harvest with me first,” said Yolanda Elias, a Community



WRRC MAR 5 site participants tour the interpretive trail taking-in the information and natural habitat. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



members and basket-maker from District 6. “I do it because it teaches them how to harvest for supplies in order to learn.”

Elias gave a presentation with her basket-making materials – cattail, bear grass, yucca and devils claw – laid out in

a front of her. She described how every plant is essential to her artistic passion. “Before the MAR 5 was here, it took time to get the

materials I needed for my baskets, because there were few places to harvest. Now I can come here say, ‘Look it’s ready,’” said Elias. She

said seeing what was once hard to come by now readily available at her fingertips is a feeling both bittersweet and emotional.

GRIC Royalty Hosts Virtual Pet Costume, Community Members Use Creative Talents

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Royalty hosted a virtual pet costume contest for GRIC members who were able to submit photos of their furry loved ones. The contest featured over 60 participants, including dogs, cats, and even a rabbit and hamster.

Pet owners got creative with costumes and photos of their pets for this festive contest. The winners were announced in a video posted to social media on Saturday, Oct. 30.

The first place winner was NoFace, dressed as painter Bob Ross. The second place winner was Leo, dressed as the character Edward Scissorhands. Third place went to Pablo, dressed as Gondola Serenader.

The contest also had Honorable Mention categories. Funniest costume went to the Petey, dressed as a “crazy mouse killer.” Spookiest costume went to AJ, who was dressed as Chucky. And the most original costume went to David Rowie, who was dressed as Jareth: The Goblin King from “Labyrinth.”

“Halloween is one of my favorite times of the year,” said Alyse Marietta, Miss Indian Arizona 2021-2022, who served as one of the judges for the costume contest.

“I loved seeing everyone’s fur babies that were submitted and just to see everyone in the holiday spirit was really fun,” said Marrietta, who came up with the idea for the contest during her reign as Miss Gila River after the positive feedback she received when she posted photos of her dog on social media for ‘National Dog Day.’

“I thought it was a great idea because who doesn’t love seeing pets in cute costumes,” said Jr. Miss

Gila River Sineca Jackson, who also has a dog of her own, “Deet” a Pitbull and labradoodle mix she adopted from Gila River Animal Control for her birthday recently.

If you or anyone is interested in adopting a pet, Gila River Animal Control is located in District 5 and is open for adoptions with a fee. The facility is open seven days a week from 8 A.M. – 5 P.M. Adopted animals are vaccinated and spayed or neutered. For more information, contact Gila River Animal Control at (520) 562-5177.

Jackson says virtual events have helped her to hone her public speaking skills and to engage with the Community. She shared some of the pros and cons of the events, such as occasional technical difficulties when broadcasting online.

“The message that is going out to the community during these events always outweighs the cons,” said Jackson. “On the other hand, being a part of virtual events has been great. It’s not the whole in-person interaction experience, but it’s the fact that somehow and in some way myself and Alyse (Marrietta) are still getting our platforms out there.”

Photos courtesy of their respected pet owner: Reina Jackson, Pet: No Face as “Bob Ross the Painter,” Anaiya Enos, Pet: Leo as Edward Scissor Hands, Will Antone, Pet Pablo as “Gondola Serenader,” Joella Velasco, Pet: Petey as “Crazy Mouse Killer,” Arlene Hastings, Pet: AJ as Chucky, Melissa Paul, Pet: Rowie aka David Bowie as “The Goblin King from ‘Labyrinth.’”





Gila River
HEALTH CARE

In observance of

VETERANS DAY

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

CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

Pharmacy Hours

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH CLOSED

WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

If you need assistance or would like more info on services open, please call GRHC's main line 520.562.3321. GRHC's normal business hours will resume Friday, November 12th.

If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • October 20, 2021

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, October 20, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone-Smith

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith, 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 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 THROUGH #3, AND #5 THROUGH #9; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #15, AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS #1

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction of District 7 Service Center Coordinator, Pamela Valdez

Presenters: Laurie Thomas; Pamela Valdez

MS. LAURIE THOMAS INTRODUCED MS. PAMELA VALDEZ. THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONGRATULATED MS. VALDEZ ON HER POSITION AND EXPRESSED WELL WISHES.

2. Introduction of District 4 Service Center Coordinator, Sandra Thayer

Presenters: Laurie Thomas; Sandra Thayer

MS. LAURIE THOMAS INTRODUCED MS. SANDRA THAYER. MS. THOMAS STATED THAT MS. THAYER HAS PROMOTED FROM THE ASSISTANT COORDINATOR FROM DISTRICT 5 TO THE DISTRICT 4 SERVICE CENTER COORDINATOR. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MS. THAYER ON HER NEW POSITION.

REPORTS

*1. Head Start Monthly Report for August 2021

Presenter: Carolina B. Kelley

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. GRIC UMA 2nd & 3rd Quarter Report

Presenters: Board of Directors

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Ira H. Hayes Post 84 FY 2021 First Half Report

Presenter: Bill Dixon

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. COVID-19 Update

Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force

REPORT HEARD

>5. Blackwater Community School Annual Tribal Allocation Report SY2020-2021

Presenters: Jagdish Sharma; Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. Sacaton Elementary School Annual Tribal Allocation Report 2020-2021

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

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. Sacaton Middle School Annual Tribal Allocation Report 2020-2021

Presenters: Bright Benson; Dr. Lynette Michalski; Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. Saint Peter Indian Mission Catholic School Annual Tribal Allocation Report 2020-2021

Presenters: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter; Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. Gila Crossing Community School Annual Tribal Allocation Report SY2020-2021

Presenters: Jim Mosely; Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And DCI Group AZ, LLC For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And DR Law PLLC For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

3. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Dorsey & Whitney, LLP For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

4. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Jacobson, Magnuson, Anderson & Halloran, P.C. For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

5. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Lippes Mathias Wexler & Friedman, LLP For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

6. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Osborn Maledon, P.A. For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

7. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Public Policy Partners For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

8. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Rothstein Law Firm For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

9. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Center For Applied Research, Inc. For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

10. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Keller-Bliesner Engineering, LLC For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

11. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The

Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Peter Mock Groundwater Consulting, Inc. For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

12. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Gookin Engineers, LTD For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

13. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Yoder & Langford, P.C. For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; H&SSC concurs)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

14. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #1

>15. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Termination Of Per Capita Trust Accounts And Directing The Distribution Of Trust Assets To Certain Beneficiaries (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

16. A Resolution Amending Resolution GR-25-16 And Approving The Amended Plan Of Operations For The Gila River Indian Irrigation And Drainage District (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

>1. Oversight for the Tribal Courts (LSC forwards to community Council with a recommendation to reaffirm Associate Judge Anthony Hill in acting capacity as Chief Judge until such time the position is filled by the 2021 special election and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Shannon White

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

*1. 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

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MINUTES

1. September 15, 2021 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. October 5, 2021 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. October 6, 2021 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~PUBLIC SAFETY OWNERS TEAM MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M. VIA WEBEX

~REVIEWING COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:55 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



THE HUB



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE
(520) 550-6079



GRHC.ORG/HUB

COVID-19 and FLU VACCINE AVAILABLE

NOVEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE

11/8	Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 3 pm
11/9	Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 3 pm
11/10	Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	11 am - 6 pm
11/11	Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 3 pm
11/13	Sacaton Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 3 pm



The Caring House has received an update from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Five-Star Quality Rating System. In Overall Quality, TCH has moved up to 4 stars from the previous 3 star rating. In the CMS rating for Staffing, TCH remains at 5 stars. This pertains to hours of nursing care provided to each resident. In the Quality Measures rating, TCH has improved to 5 stars from 4 stars.

The Quality Measures rating uses data from long-stay and short-stay residents on a range of high-impact clinical measures such as falls, UTIs, etc., so this rating reflects quality of care for residents. Finally, TCH's Health Inspection rating has improved to 2 stars from the previous 1 star rating as a result of the 2016 survey dropping out of CMS' rating system, and the three most recent health surveys having been positive. Nursing homes with a 4 star Overall rating are considered to have above average quality.

The TCH staff has achieved significant measurable improvements during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is quite a feat and a testament to the leadership and commitment of all staff.

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

CLOSED 11/11/2021 - VETERANS DAY

CLOSED 11/25 & 26/2021 - THANKSGIVING

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

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

Submissions

SUSPENSION OF CHIEF JUDGE JOSEPH MANUEL

Submitted by
GRIC Office of General Council

On July 7, 2021, by a vote of 15 in favor and 1 opposed, the Community Council suspended the Chief Judge of the Community Court, Joseph Manuel, for a period of 90 days without pay, effective immediately, with reinstatement to occur as of October 5, 2021. The Community Council determined that Chief Judge

Manuel engaged in improper conduct including questionable communications with a Children's Court judge, making unfounded allegations against a Children's Court judge, ignoring multiple complaints regarding Community Court administrative staff, sharing confidential information, and at least creating the appearance of taking retaliatory action. The Community Council found that, while

the conduct did not rise to the level of removal under Article XII of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community, it was serious and justified the sanction of a suspension without pay. Further, the Community Council unanimously directed the publication of this action in the Gila River Indian News and on Community social media.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Post Office Box 2138
Sacaton, Arizona 85147
(520) 562-9720
FAX: (520) 562-9729

~ OFFICIAL MOTION ~

I, Shannon White, Secretary of the Gila River Indian Community Council, hereby attest to the following Motion passed by the Gila River Indian Community Council at a REGULAR Meeting held Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 9:00 a.m., by WebEx platform.

SUBJECT: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Investigative Report/Chief Judge (Executive Session)

MOTION: Councilman Arzie Hogg stated, motion to make a determination that Chief Judge Joseph Manuel engaged in improper conduct including questionable communications with a Children's Court Judge; making unfounded allegations against a Children's Court Judge; ignoring multiple complaints regarding Community Court administration staff; allegedly sharing confidential information; and at least creating the appearance of taking retaliatory action; and that, while his actions do not rise to the level of warranting removal under Article XII of the Constitution, his misconduct is serious and justifies a sanction from the Community Council; and for these reasons Chief Judge Manuel is suspended for a period of 90 days without pay, effectively immediately, with reinstatement as of October 5, 2021; second by Councilman Charles Goldtooth

Vote: 16 Council Members Present – 15 For; 1 Oppose; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent; 0 Vacancy; **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: Councilman Arzie Hogg stated, motion to direct the separate publication of the Community Council action in this matter in the Gila River Indian News and not limited to any social media outlet managed by the GRIN; second by Councilman Charles Goldtooth

Vote: 16 Council Members Present – 16 For; 0 Oppose; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent; 0 Vacancy; **MOTION CARRIED**

ATTEST:



Shannon White
Shannon White
Community Council Secretary

07.07.21; 3:05:19; 03:09:00

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PHILBERT LEON HOWARD JR.,	CASE Number: PB-2021-0012-DE CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING <u>RESCHEDULED</u>
--	--

To: Debra Garcia
P.O. Box 1433
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Please take notice that a(n) Evidentiary Hearing has been rescheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

This matter has been scheduled at the place and time set forth below:

Friday, November 19, 2021
at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I,
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 21st day of October, 2021

[Signature]
Clerk of the Gila River Indian Community Court

Copy of the foregoing served by:

Certified Mail - Debra Garcia
P.O. Box 1433
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Published in the Gila River Indian Newspaper (GRIN)

This 21st day of October, 2021.

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

OPEN TO GRIC COMMUNITY MEMBERS, GRIC OR GRHC EMPLOYEES, AND ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS: NOV. 15 to NOV. 18 2021

VIRTUAL RUN BEGINS: NOV. 19 2021

VIRTUAL RUN ENDS: NOV. 21 2021

SCAN → 

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YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE HOME A 

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MORE DETAILS SOON

INCENTIVES FOR THE FIRST 100 TO REGISTER

RUN/WALK

VIRTUAL THREE MILE RUN OR WALK

Tribal Health Department is not responsible for any injuries that may occur during this event.

If you have any questions please contact the Community Health Education Program at **1(520)562-5100**





Domestic violence is not our traditional way.

Does your partner:

- Frequently insult or criticize you?
- Act extremely jealous or possessive?
- Isolate you from relatives or friends?
- Physically harm you or force you to have sex?
- Keep you from your Native culture or spirituality?

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, you may be in an *unhealthy or abusive relationship*.



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 This project is supported by Grant Number 90EV0459--01-01 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2021

Vitrual Half Marathon (13.1 Miles)

Registration opens November 1st, 2021. Open to the FIRST 125 participants.

Must be enrolled members of Gila River Indian Community.

Registration deadline: Wednesday November 17, 2021 or Until Full

Register online at:

ibit.ly/NmUZ

Or scan QR code



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Brake Pad Replacement
\$159.95

Valid Monday-Saturday 11/1/21-12/4/21. Does not apply to specialty vehicles or some trucks. See Service Advisor for details. Rotor replacement is additional cost. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.



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4 Oil Changes for \$40
4 Synthetic Oil Changes for \$70

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Tires at dealer cost
*must be installed at dealership

Valid Monday-Saturday 11/1/21-12/4/21. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

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8PM

11.14.21



LARRY HERNANDEZ

8PM

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