

# 2022 Water Rights Day Celebration

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

Saturday, Dec. 10, the Community recognized the 18th Annual Water Rights Day, celebrating the 2004 Water Settlement Act. This year's celebration event was virtual, which included a video presentation on Gila River Broadcast Corp.'s channel 29.1 and the GRIC Face-

book page, premiering at 10 a.m. that morning.

The 18th anniversary video commemorated the history of the historic 2004 Water Settlement Act. It highlighted the ongoing resilience of the Community as it progresses in the effort to continue the flow of the Gila River through the Community while employing new innovative

measures. The presentation featured addresses from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, GRIC royalty, U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, Community youth, and more.

"Water Rights Day serves as a reminder of our people's loss, struggles, and hardships... We will continue to advocate for our basic human needs and way of lives," said

2022-23 Miss Gila River Kelsey Martinez during her opening remarks. "As long as we stay true to who we are we will continue to protect our himdag and our lives, which allows us to live in balance."

2022-23 Jr. Miss Gila River Eliana Rhodes followed up, stating, "For centuries, the Akimel and our shudag have provided for our people, such as helping with our crops," said Rhodes. "On Water Rights Day, we give thanks to our Community leadership who fought for our basic human needs."

Both Martinez and Rhodes attribute the ancestral Huhugam canals as the critical lifeline of who we are as a Community. Therefore, they are both grateful to see the water returned and flowing today.

"My late father Rod Lewis, who was our general counsel, made tremendous sacrifices to right the wrongs that occurred when our water was taken, no stolen, from our Community which has had a tremendous impact on our tradition of farming and agriculture," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. "In our culture, which is so closely tied to the river, we celebrate today our historic water settlement and we also celebrate

## MGR Donates Blankets to Caring House



**Miss Gila River 2022-23 Kelsey Martinez stands with one of the custom blankets she will donate to the Caring House residents.** Kyle Knox/GRIN

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

Dec. ushers in gifts and holiday cheer for many, and this year is no different, specifically for the residents of Gila River Health Care's Caring House skilled nursing facility.

On Sunday, Dec. 4, Miss Gila River 2022-23 Kelsey Martinez gathered with her court, family, and the Akimel O'odham/ Pee-Posh Youth Council members to create special handmade blankets for the Caring House residents.

Miss Gila River Kelsey Martinez's goal was to create a unique and practical gift for the elders for use this winter. It is predicted that this year's winter will be colder than the last, so she hopes they can enjoy the gift and brighten up their days at the Caring House.

"Since being crowned, I haven't been able to do much for the elders at the Caring House due to COVID-19 restrictions," said Martinez. "This was my way to show them that we are thinking of them, they're not forgotten, and we care about them."

The blankets are fashioned by knotting two fleece blankets on the ends, creating a thicker blanket with a unique handmade look.

"It feels great to give back to the Community, specifically to our elders, and it's a very wholesome experience making these blankets today," said Jr. Miss Gila River First Attendant Caiden Lewis. She feels it is meaningful to think about others during this time, not take what we have for granted, and help others in need when possible.

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**STEPHEN ROE LEWIS**  
GOVERNOR

**Governor Stephen Roe Lewis shares the important history of the Community's 2004 Water Settlement Act and outlined potential plans for the future of GRIC water.** CPAO Photo

# Phoenix Suns Recognize GRIC at 'ORIGINATIV' Game

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

On Friday, Dec. 2, The Phoenix Suns faced off against the Houston Rockets at the Footprint Center in Phoenix, where the Gila River Indian Community was recognized.

Since Nov. Gila River Resorts & Casinos hosts 'ORIGINATIV' game nights to celebrate the team's uniform and the tribes that inspired it, including the Gila River Indian Community.

"I feel excited that they actually acknowledge Indigenous people," said District 4 Council Rep. Regina Antone, "We were honored and humbled that they recognized GRIC."

"Tonight, showcased O'otham culture, dance, and song. It showcased who we are as O'otham throughout the whole game, very beautifully," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, "We're really proud of the Community and of our ongoing partnership with the Phoenix Suns."

GRIC's Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post #84 served as the color guard while musician Adrian D Thomas, District 5, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."



**Chi'Chino Spirit Traditional Dance Group and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis following their half-time performance on Dec. 2.** Emma Hughes/GRIN

"I've been doing music for 11 years now. I was asked to sing the National Anthem by Governor Steven Roe Lewis a couple of weeks ago, and I couldn't pass the opportunity up," said Thomas, who performs with 'One Way Sky,' an indie-alternative band

with members from the Gila River Indian Community and Tohono O'odham Nation.

Pre-game and half-time entertainment welcomed "Chi'Chino Spirit" traditional dance group, featuring members from the Gila River Indian Community,

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

17-year-old Waylon Webb Jr., District 3, said he was nervous about performing for the half-time

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Count  
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# Healthy Kids & Families



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## DECEMBER

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December 19

District 2 Service Center  
9 am - 2 pm

Tuesday  
December 20

District 2 Service Center  
9 am - 2 pm

Thursday  
December 22

D3 Head Start  
9 am - 2 pm

Tuesday  
December 27

District 1 Service Center  
9 am - 2 pm

Thursday  
December 29

D3 Head Start  
9 am - 2 pm

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Gary Mix, Tribal Treasurer  
Shannon White,  
Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us  
CPAO Director  
(520) 562-9851

**Kyle Knox**  
Kyle.Knox@gric.nsn.us  
Managing Editor  
(520) 562-9719

**Emma Hughes**  
Emma.Hughes-Juan@gric.nsn.us  
Community Newsperson  
(520) 562-9852

**For more information**  
grin@gric.nsn.us  
(520) 562-9715

Write to:  
**Editor, GRIN**  
P.O. Box 459  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

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**Gila River Indian Community**  
P.O. Box 459  
Sacaton, AZ 85147  
(520)562-9715  
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# GRIC Members Receive 'Outstanding Community Health Representative of the Year' Awards

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Health Care's (GRHC) Community Health Representatives (CHR) and GRIC members Alfreda Wise, District 6, and Micah Marrietta, District 3, were both recognized with the "Outstanding CHR of the Year" award during the CHR Summit VI on Nov. 3, in Henderson, Nevada.

The Community Health Representative Program is a unique model that provides health care, health promotion, and disease prevention services for GRHC patients.

CHRs have demonstrated how they assist and connect with the Community. As a result, their work

has become essential to the spectrum of Tribal community-oriented primary health care services such as GRHC.

"My favorite part is just meeting people, and getting to know their story and what their needs are and trying to best help them," said Wise, "It's been very fulfilling for me to serve the Community in that capacity."

CHRs often conduct home visits, help nursing staff, and assist GRHC in various Community clinics. In addition, they regularly follow up with COVID positive patients in the Community, ensuring they have the resources they need to get through quarantine safely.

Currently, there are 11 Com-

munity Health Representatives within GRHC.

Wise and Marrietta were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond, connecting with and supporting their patients on a personal level.

"Ever since I was in high school, I always wanted to be a part of the medical field, and I've always wanted to help people at a medical level; I wanted to help my Community as well," said Marrietta.

He shared that he enjoys learning and helping fellow Community members become more independent in taking control of their health.

"I enjoy helping them learn

how to set up appointments, how to arrange transportation so that they can take this education and continue on with their lives and hopefully pass it on to their family members, becoming more self-sufficient."

Their dedicated work has assisted many in meeting their health care needs. The health promotion and disease prevention efforts that CHRs provide have also helped people from the Community improve and maintain their health.

Wise said, "We're a team and I feel like it's not just for me or for Micah, it's for all of us, and we couldn't have achieved any of this without the people we serve. I feel like this belongs to them."



Micah Marrietta stands with his "Outstanding CHR of the Year" award. Photo courtesy of Gila River Health Care



Alfreda Wise smiles happily holding her "Outstanding CHR of the Year" award. Photo courtesy of Gila River Health Care

LET'S DANCE GILA RIVER PRESENTS  
MOTHER/SON & FATHER/DAUGHTER  
DANCE PARTY

*Christmas*  
**DANCE PARTY**

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 22, 2022  
DISTRICT FOUR SERVICE CENTER GYM  
STARTING AT 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Come dress up take Christmas Pictures and learn how to dance with your loved ones!  
Complimentary lessons to all who attend. Please come see what all the fun is about. All ages please call service center to confirm your attendance.  
Or inquire at [www.letsdancegilariver.com](http://www.letsdancegilariver.com)

## MGR Blankets from page 1

"I think it's very important to show how grateful we are for our elders, especially those that are at the Caring House since COVID restrictions are in place again due to rising cases," said 2022-23 Jr. Miss Gila River Eliana Rhodes. Rhodes also enjoyed the day creating the blankets and wanted to

remind everyone of how important the elders are. She stated, "Our elders are our knowledge keepers so interact and spend as much time with them but do it safely."

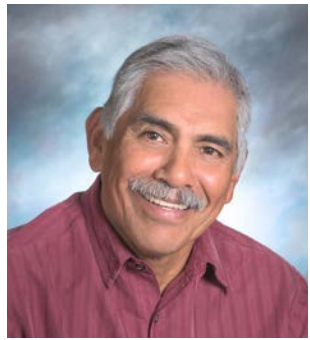
The Miss Gila River court thanks everyone that helped contribute their time to make the blankets.

The completed blankets were delivered to the Caring House Sunday, Dec. 18.



Jr. Miss Gila River Eliana Rhodes and Jr. Miss Gila River First Attendant Caiden Lewis sorting blankets Saturday, Dec.10. Kyle Knox/GRIN

# A'AGA



Submitted by Billy Allen

"We might think that we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's really our garden that's nurturing us." Jenny Uglow, biographer and cultural historian.

Andrew Pedro's family showed him the value of hard work, patience, persistence, and respect for all living things—himdag. His grandmother's stories told of elders who worked the fields all day and came home to tend home gardens. His father, Corey Pedro, used to plant summer squash/ha:l, melons, and corn. About 12 years ago, relying on memories, Andrew's garden let him experience the past, and this young man is now a seasoned gardener.

He grew tomatoes, chilies, summer squash, black eyed beans, gourds. The most successful was O'otham ha:l, but Andrew warns: "Be aware of the ha:l. It grows quickly; the vines and leaves can take over a large area. One grew to 22 pounds and a friend had one over 30 pounds! Ha:l, dried and stored, along with ba:vĩ is like eating himdag, good and healthy. Plant things you actually like to eat!" Be prepared for the unexpected, "Every so often, ants will carry off seeds, drop them elsewhere and a plant sprouts somewhere you didn't expect. Once the garden sprouted cantaloupe which I did not plant, ants/toton? The seeds had come from the compost where someone had thrown a cantaloupe which germinated when I spread compost in the garden. A good corn or lima beans harvest can be hard to mature because prairie dogs and rabbits love these as well. After all, they're O'otham too. Fighting—no, sharing—with the wildlife can be incredibly frustrating, but next time you will be more pre-

pared. Patience is a virtue; you put in time and energy to get something out of a garden." Himdag walks on.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." Audrey Hepburn, British actress and Academy Award winner.

Robin Notah of North Blackwater (Opposite/Wechut) thought a garden could provide healthy fresh food for her baby. She had no garden experience — did that stop her? Gophers, prairie dogs and rabbits tried to—they really liked her first crop of tomatoes and squash. So, for the next attempt, she dug a small trench around the garden and layered scrap cardboard with a dirt border on top. At Home Depot she noticed chemical deterrents being sold, but she wanted a more natural way to reduce the varmint raiding. Chile powder! The tomato plants flourished, but chicken wire around the plants entangled snakes. She wondered how to be less harmful to the wildlife. She laid a large wooden bookcase down to become a raised bed garden. That stumped the wildlife. One bookcase section grew basil, mint, parsley, and rosemary. Chilies and bell peppers flourished, but a squash plant in another section never produced because no bees came around. Robin captured a bee to release among the squash leaves, but it wasn't enough, so Robin added rosemary and lavender to entice pollinators. She learned nitrogen was needed so a drought tolerant grass was introduced. As her "know how" grew, so did her garden. The bounty was delicious. "I enjoy it. I have become an early riser. I like to go outside in the mornings and evenings to see and listen to the birds being playful." The "helper" who was Robin's inspiration for starting her garden is now four years old, and she knows how to plant seeds. Himdag walks on.

"In search of my mother's garden, I found my own." Alice Walker, author and Pulitzer Prize winner.

Darlene Antone is an O:s Ke:k/Blackwater gardener, and was part of the planning group for

the new D1 elderly building. Four big boxes/raised gardens were part of the plans. The plans reminded her of childhood. Candy, soda, sweets were once-in-a-while treats, but they usually had fresh vegetables. Sunday dinner was free-range chicken, right from their yard. But when COVID levels were high, the anticipated grand opening of the garden scaled down to a GRIN interview. The garden space went unused, so Darlene went into the desert, gathering native plants for the seeds. David Van Druff, project manager for the GRIC Life Center community garden, also provided seeds. Chili plants did very well as did kale, and lettuce. With COVID levels still high; Darlene bagged the harvest and laid them at doors of district elders. Himdag walks on. Darlene's garden invited pesky varmints, but a "pet snake" helped keep rodent numbers down. Scarecrow "Moe" was supposed to scare away flyers, but once the sky raiders figured out Moe just stood there, well... This 60+ gardener will keep gardening because it keeps her active and may add years of life. These experiences have pointed her to a philosophy, "Plants should be talked to when you are around them for their bounty keeps us living. Enjoy the harvest."

You can't harvest if you don't plant. Year-round gardening is very possible in our community. Winter gardens can produce lettuce, spinach, onions, cilantro, radish, chard, peas, and much more. March is the prime planting time for spring and summer gardens, but soil prep can be started now, a very good way to work up a sweat. Lana Allen, Angel Blaine, and Clinton Kalka shared their insights in the last GRIN. Andrew, Robin, and Darlene offered their knowledge here, and I appreciate these gardeners for encouraging others to get growing. If you would become a "garden rookie," you might start small—about the size of a door. Good luck if you take that first step. Himdag 'o am him.



## S-ko:mag Mashath 2022

Submitted by Huhugam Heritage Center

The name for this month translates to the 'grey month' and refers to the weather elements we encounter on rainy and foggy days. This month we all look forward to "Jios Alithag Ma:sik Thash" (The Birth of God's Son), which translates further to Christmas Day. As new religions and customs were introduced to our O'otham

world, our grandparents adapted by creating translations and descriptions of the items associated with the holidays. Use the word list below to add to your O'otham vocabulary, as you go about decorating your homes, and preparing for the big get-together in the days ahead. Practice saying the words with your Elders and Speakers and use them in your everyday lives. Some pronunciations

may be slightly different between the villages. This month's Word Search will challenge you to find all 20 words, something to do as we patiently await the arrival of Santha Klo:s. From all of our families here at your Huhugam Heritage Center, we wish everyone an S-he:kig Jios Alithag Ma:sik Thash ch Vechij Aithag!

Word Match Solution on Page 12

hu'u		choikuḍ lu:lsi	
gev Otham		huai	
Santha Klo:s		ma:kigthag	
kampañ		kakalsi:tha	
klishmas o'hothag		kakanjel	
sio'ov pap'pan		lil'shoñ	
thova		ko:ji chu:kug	
huñ		pa:n	
thova kayio		aba:l	
klishmas kwi		nalash	

### S-ko:mag Mashath, Klishmas Haichu, Word Search 2022

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#### COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
TO: Miguel Bandin  
IN THE MATTER OF JOANNA MATTIA,  
Petitioner/Plaintiff vs.  
MIGUEL BANDIN, Respondent/Defendant  
CASE Number: CV-2022-0177-ZMV  
CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court. YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING regarding this matter on:  
Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 10:30 AM in Courtroom 1,

AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,  
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.  
YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.  
If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.  
GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.  
DATED this 4th day of November, 2022

# FITNESS & WELLNESS

## Community Bike Ride Honors Water Rights Day

**Kyle Knox**

Gila River Indian News

Elisha Bishop, District 3, held his second bike ride Saturday, Dec. 10, and recognized the Community's Water Rights Day by beginning at the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site #5 (MAR 5) in District 3. This event was the second in his ongoing GRIC Bike Ride Series.

"These rides are social, family friendly, and are all about building community and getting people out on bikes," said Bishop. This date is the second bike ride series he's organized in the Community this year. He is happy to see each event grow in participation. "Overall, I feel the ride went great and people seemed to enjoy the route, and seeing families riding together is always a highlight for me personally."

On the brisk morning of the ride, 18 riders across the Community arrived for the five or 10-mile options throughout Districts 3 and 4. For that morning's Wa-

ter Rights Day Ride, Bishop shared a brief history of Water Rights Day and its significance before the ride began.

Roseanne Jose, from

the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, brought her family for the five-mile ride that morning. "I wanted us to experience the ride for the first time and

get some exercise, for all of us, as a family and ride together," said Jose.

Flat tires are part of bike riding and this morning's ride was no exception.

Thankfully, there was only one rider that got a flat tire. As luck would have it, the young woman was allowed to finish the ride with everyone on a lent bike.

District 6 member Sandra Nasewytewa participated for the first time with Bishop' and was eager to ride with the group. "I thought this was a perfect opportunity to see the reservation, be with other people, and burn some calories," said Nasewytewa. As an avid runner, Nasewytewa includes biking in her training since it's easier on her body.

Five rides are left in the series, concluding March 25, 2023, in District 4. "If you're new to riding, do some rides on your own to build up your endurance and get comfortable with riding farther and farther distances, then join us at one of the events," said Bishop. He's hopeful that more people will consider joining and encourages anyone to contact him personally for more information or to answer any questions.

See the flyer on page 12 for more information on the rides and contact information for Elisha Bishop.



**Elisha Bishop (center) and Community bike riders at MAR 5 just before cycling through Districts 3 and 4.** Kyle Knox/GRIN

## MVP Drew Powell Joins Flag Football Clinic

**Kyle Knox**

Gila River Indian News

Saturday, Dec. 3, the Tribal Recreation and Wellness, in collaboration with Brown Performance Strength & Conditioning (BPSC), hosted a flag football clinic at the Sacaton Fairgrounds. The clinic drew dozens of youth ages seven to 17 to learn the rules of the game, develop football skills, and speed training.

The camp also featured a notable special guest, Arizona Rattlers quarterback

and three-time MVP Drew Powell. The clinic was Powell's first opportunity to work in the Community. However, it was a welcome addition to the clinic, where he shared his professional football expertise and worked alongside youth in every aspect of the conditioning clinic.

"Our goal is to help encourage youth to overcome personal obstacles, achieve their goals, and become better athletes through these clinics," said Maurice Brown. He cofounded

BPSC and serves as the Arizona Rattlers' head strength and conditioning coach.

"For this clinic, we just wanted the kids to have fun, be active, and learn the game of flag football and hopefully they can get together and play in their own communities after," said Brown.

Despite the rainy conditions that morning, two clinics took place for the ages 7-11 and 12-17-year-olds. The groups utilized the existing ramadas at the fairgrounds, where youth

completed different football drills modeled after the Arizona Rattlers training program. Then the youth demonstrated their training during a flag football scrimmage game at the end of each session.

"I do my part to get out to certain communities that don't have as much access to these kinds of opportunities and I want to plant a seed and give back," said Drew Powell. He was anxious to work with the Community. He was also impressed by the coordination and equipment available for the clinic. His goal was to influence the youth to consider sports an opportunity to go outside their Community, go to school, and see the world.

"When I was young, all I ever wanted was an adult to guide me and tell me how to play, let me know I'm doing good so I hope that I was able to do that here today for these kids and spark more interest in them after today," said Powell.

Maurice established BPSC with his brother Ryan Brown and has hosted numerous sports clinics for Community youth focusing on sports fundamentals. Their goal is to support healthy activity for youth through sports. Together



**A youth participant during drills focusing on catching and handling on Dec. 3.** CPAO Photo

er they also hope to instill confidence and encourage youth to aspire for higher achievements beyond sports through their mentorship.

Earlier this year, BPSC hosted three basketball clinics that renowned Native American basketball player

Jude Schimmel attended. They plan to continue the partnership with the Tribal Recreation and Wellness to host more sports clinics for youth and applaud the Gila River Indian Community for their continued support.



**Arizona Rattlers quarterback Drew Powell warms up the clinic participants before their scheduled flag football scrimmage game.** CPAO Photo



# HEADLINES

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis  
Governor



Monica Antone  
Lt. Governor

## Gov. Lewis, Sen. Sinema Discuss Water Issues at ITCA Roundtable

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

On Friday, Dec. 9, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) hosted a Tribal Leaders Water Policy Council and Colorado River Tribal Roundtable at the Heard Museum. The hybrid gathering assembled tribal leaders from across Arizona to discuss the state's dire drought and its effects on

tribal nations.

Tribal leaders received presentations on numerous topics and discussions and included updates on current and proposed federal policy revisions. An overview of the Proposed Revisions to the Federal Water Quality Regulations to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights was also shared.

These proposed revisions would make certain

that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clear Water Act includes tribal nations. For example, modifications would include a clear description of how the EPA will review existing water quality standards and enhance the protection of all water designated for a tribal nations. In addition, this revision would certify that water is safe for drinking, household use, agriculture, and for wildlife such as fish.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis facilitated a discussion with U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema titled "Discussion on Water Infrastructure Funding and its Impact to Tribes."

In great detail, Gov. Lewis and Sen. Sinema shared the funding and resources that Congress will allocate as it addresses the water needs of Arizona's tribal nations and the impacts of the Colorado River's shallow levels.

During her remarks, Sen. Sinema pointed to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which allocated \$8 billion for the water needs of Arizona and Western states. A significant component of the BIL also secures



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (right) facilitated the discussion on water infrastructure funding with U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (left) at the Dec. 9 ITCA Tribal Leaders Water Policy Council gathering. Kyle Knox/GRIN

funding for all currently authorized Indian Water Settlements.

Another critical discussion point concerned the Colorado River Basin and its water. Lake Powell and Lake Mead are at historically low levels, the driest in 23 years. Both are currently at less than 30% capacity, which, if lowered, could drastically diminish water distribution to those tribal communities and municipi-

ties that benefit most.

While the current projections remain grim, tribal nations are at a critical point to begin negotiations with state and federal governments to explore mitigation efforts.

Sen. Sinema stressed that these discussions in Congress are often hard conversations but remain necessary. Closing out her dialogue, Sen. Sinema assured everyone that she

would remain a champion for Arizona's tribes and she would make sure that short-term and long-term water conservation efforts remain a priority while in office.

These ITCA meetings will continue in the future to help steward the collective efforts forward and see to it that tribal nations are included in all decisions concerning water with state and federal officials.



Chairman of the Hopi Tribe Timothy Nuvangyaoma (center) and his delegation address the Bureau of Reclamation during the meeting on Dec. 9. Kyle Knox/GRIN

### Water Rights Day from page 1

the resilience of our Community."

Gov. Lewis highlighted that the region is facing the worst recorded drought today. As a result, the Community remains vigilant in efforts to protect and conserve Community water.

"In the 18 years since the settlement was reached on Dec. 10, we have worked hard to implement the settlement and we have done so in a highly effective way that we're seeing the results of the implementation as the Gila River again flows through the Community."

The Managed Aquifer Recharge Site #5 (MAR 5) is a prominent example of how the Community is working to conserve water while fostering a return of native plants and animals to the Community.

During the presentation, it was also announced that a new solar-covered canal project would break ground in 2023. This project will be the first in the Western Hemisphere to curve water evaporation rates while producing energy for the region. In addition, this project will serve as a model for other Native tribes and municipalities to consider in their efforts to conserve water.

The program also included special remarks from leaders outside of GRIC to mark the occasion.

"You [GRIC] know firsthand the value of water and I look forward to our continued partnership and making sure that we protect this critical resource for you and for generations to come for the Community," said Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. "Thank you, Gov. Lewis, for your support and your partnership and to the council for your continued protection of the Community and our shared values around water."

U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema also shared a message with the Community. "I know that Dec. 10 marks the 18th celebration of your water settlement, and I couldn't be prouder and more honored to join in this celebration with you. I look forward to all of our continued work together."

The Water Rights Day video is available on the GRIC Facebook page. It features a detailed litigation history, a short presentation on the history of the Gila River, and songs by the Akimel O'odham/ Pee-Posh Youth Council.

### PHX Suns Game from page 1

show, "It's my first experience, very nerve-racking. It's my big first step into being a warrior for our Chi'Chino Spirit, and I look forward to doing more with the people I know and experience my culture, our culture."

2022-2023 Miss Indian Arizona First Attendant Lehua Lani Dosela, District 6, also performed with the traditional group, "So far, this has been a very exciting experience," she said.

Commemorating Native American Heritage Recognition month in Nov., The Suns unveiled the team's new Nike "City Edition" uniform which pays homage to Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes.

The uniforms will be worn throughout the remainder of the season during the ORIGINATIV games.

"On behalf of our Gila River Indian Community, we are grateful for all they're doing for the Native Americans, the state of Arizona and the states around us that have Native Ameri-



GRIC member Adrian D Thomas joined by the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84, who presented colors before he sang The Star-Spangled Banner. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Chi'Chino Spirit Traditional Dance Group during the half-time performance at the Footprint Center on Friday, Dec. 2. Emma Hughes/GRIN

cans," said District 5 Council Rep. James De La Rosa, "This is like the first, we're excited for it and we're just

so proud that they're able to recognize the Indigenous people."



Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton of the Bureau of Reclamation addresses the Community during the Water Right's Day video presentation. CPAO Photo

# GRIC Featured in New Exhibit at the Heard Museum

**Emma Hughes**

Gila River Indian News

The Heard Museum proudly unveils a new, permanent exhibition titled "Substance of Stars," which opened on Nov. 6.

The exhibit examines the collection of the Heard Museum from tribal perspectives across a wide variety of media and periods in history. It incorporates Indigenous languages, sky knowledge, and spiritual values and includes elements of the origin stories that form Native Identities.

Substance of Stars is a culmination of a three-year collaboration with advisers from four Indigenous Nations: the Akimel O'odham, Diné, Haudenosaunee, and Yup'ik, as they share their unique perspectives, stories, and experiences.

The exhibit features historical and contemporary works centered around a 360-degree theatrical portion of the exhibition titled the "Sky-Dome."

The Sky-Dome offers a unique theatrical experience

with edge-blend technology that showcases dynamic landscapes during the four seasons on 20-foot-high walls, while fiber optic ceiling lights simultaneously replicate a map of the cosmos centered on the North Star during the change of seasons from the Arizona night sky.

Gila River Broadcasting Corp. (GRBC) provided video showcasing O'odham lands at the request of the curators.

GRBC stated, "We would like to thank the Heard Museum for including us, and for everyone who worked tirelessly on the project bringing it to light for all to see."

GRIC members Anthony Marrietta, GRBC Media Editor, and James Jay, GRBC Multimedia Designer, capturing landscape video for the Sky-Dome. Both contributed landscape footage from the Community and parts of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Additionally, the ex-

hibition acquired newly commissioned artwork by contemporary Indigenous artists. These pieces are positioned prominently alongside historical works and site-specific immersive media from O'odham artists, including Thomas "Breeze" Marcus (Tohono O'odham), Dwayne Manuel (Onk Akimel O'odham), and Jacob Butler (Onk Akimel O'odham).

To represent each Native Nation included in Substance of Stars, at least two Indigenous curators and historians representing each tribal nation collaborated on the exhibition. In addition, elders, artists, scholars, linguists, and traditional knowledge-keepers were consultants on the exhibit.

O'odham representatives include Barnaby V. Lewis (Akimel O'odham), cultural adviser; David Martinez (Akimel O'odham/Hia Ced O'odham/Mexican), cultural adviser; Gila River Broadcasting Corp. (Akimel O'odham), collaborating video contributors; Jacob



Anthony Marrietta, Media Editor and James Jay, Multimedia Designer from the Gila River Broadcasting Corp. during the opening of the "Substance of Stars" exhibition. Photo courtesy of Gila River Broadcasting Corp.

Butler artist, curator, cultural adviser; Dwayne Manuel, participating artist, cultural adviser; Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, participating artist and cultural adviser.

This new signature exhibition features key works on loan to the Heard Museum by partnering institutions.

According to the museum's press release, the Fenimore Museum, the Honolulu Museum of Art, and the Rochester Museum of Science and Culture were a few that lent items to the Heard Museum.

The Heard Museum is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed

during major holidays. All tribal members receive free admission with tribal ID or CIB.

For more information on this exhibit and the museum, visit heard.org.

## GRPD Promotes Six Police Officers Dec. 14



L-F: Sergeant Kean Kammer, Lt. William Lewis, Commander Manuel Duarte, Acting Chief William T. Morago, Acting Assistant Chief of Police Tamatha Villar, Sergeant Jeremy Williams, Lt. Orlando Ramirez, and Sergeant Vladislav Janjusic. Photo courtesy of GRPD

On Wed. Dec. 14, six Gila River Police Dept. officers were promoted in rank. A promotion ceremony took place at the GRPD Police Training Center. The following are the names and ranking of each officer that was promoted: Manuel Duarte, Rank of Commander; William Lewis, Rank of Lieutenant; Orlando Ramirez, Rank of Lieutenant; Vladislav Janjusic, Rank of Sergeant; Kean Kammer, Rank of Sergeant; Jeremy Williams, Rank of Sergeant



Gov. Lewis congratulates new graduate Kornelius Michael John at the American Indian Convocation in Tempe. Emma Hughes/GRIN

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, Arizona State University (ASU) held its Fall 2022 American Indian Convocation at the Grady Gammage Auditorium in Tempe. The occasion saw over 300 Native graduates celebrated for their academic achievements.

Graduates gathered with family and friends as they walked across the stage

to receive their commemorative Pendleton stoles, including six Gila River Indian Community members;

**Robert Horton**, Bachelor of Science, Supply Chain Management

**Rachael Antone**, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

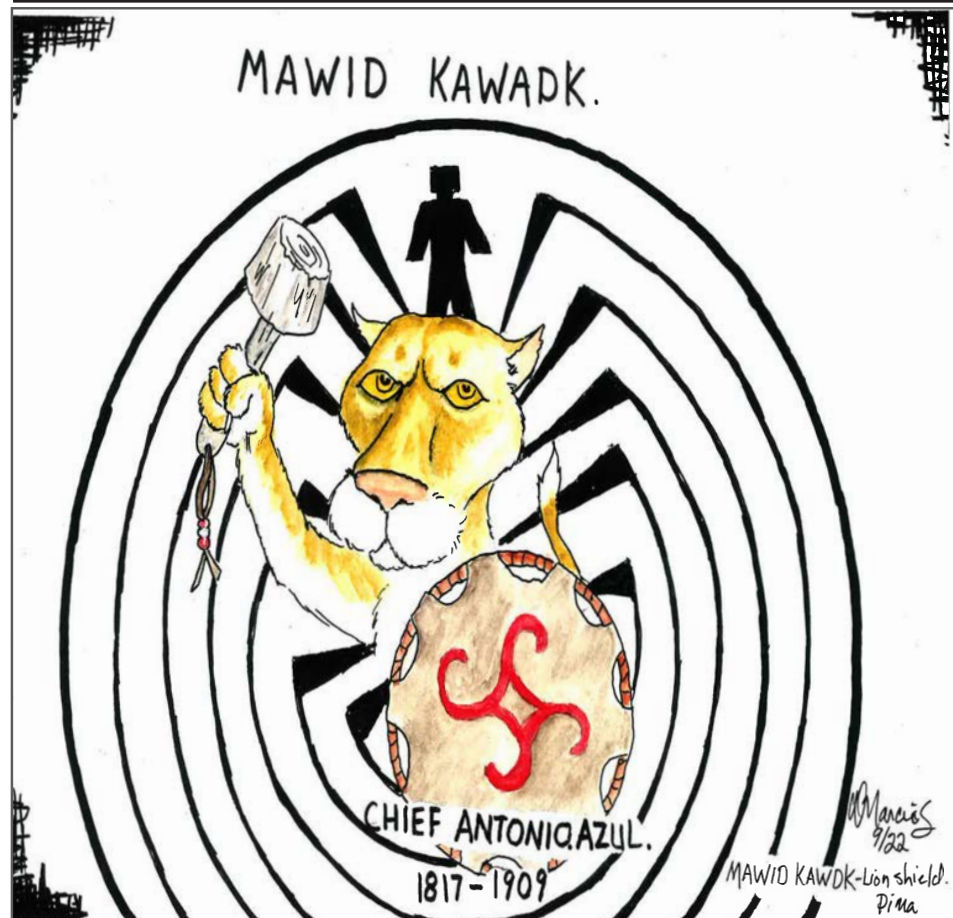
**Kornelius Michael John**, Bachelor of Science, Political Science

**Kristen Dosela**, Bachelor of Education, Early Childhood Education

**Yvonne Garcia**, Bachelor of Arts, Filmmaking Practices

**Francisco Hernandez Jr.**, Master of Science, Science of Health Care Delivery

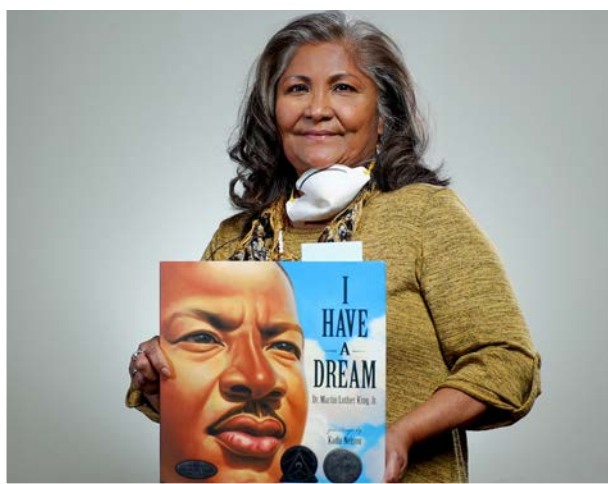
Mr. Indigenous ASU First Attendant and GRIC member Napoleon Marrietta provided a land acknowledgment for the convocation. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and fellow tribal leaders and dignitaries were also present for the occasion.



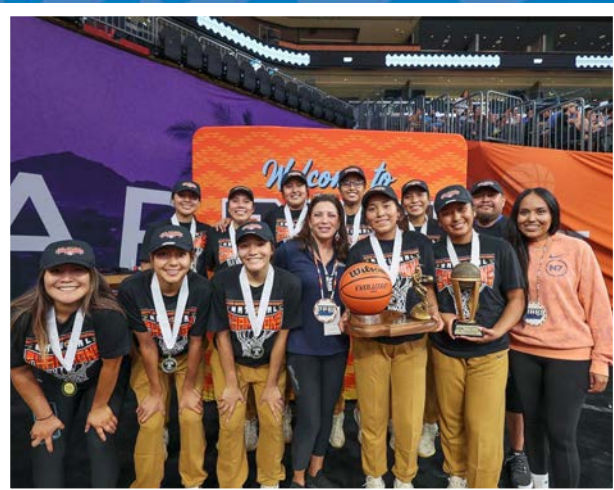
New graduates Yvonne Garcia (left) and Kristen Dosela (right) receive their diplomas adorned with the 2022 GRIC Graduate Stole. Emma Hughes/GRIN

# 2022

# YEAR IN REVIEW







# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

## Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • Dec. 7, 2022

### 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, December 7, 2022, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Councilman Arzie Hogg at 9:02 a.m.

### INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone

### ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis (9:08)

Council Members Present:

D1- Arzie Hogg, Joey Whitman; D2- Ann Lucas (9:06); D3- Avery White (9:10), Rodney Jackson; D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison (9:06), Nada Celaya, Regina Antone; D5- James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans (9:05); D7- Devin Redbird (9:13)

Executive Officers Attending via WebEx Platform:

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #9, #10 AND #13 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 THROUGH #5 AND #7; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #2 THROUGH #5; ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1 THROUGH #6 AND #8 AND #9 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

### PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS

>1. St. Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Allocation Annual Report for School Year 2021-2022

Presenters: Father Antony Tinker, Fabian Terry, Sister Martha Mary Carpenter, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Lone Butte Development LLC FY 2022 Annual Report

Presenters: Esther Manuel, Christina Waquie

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Gila River Health Care Tobacco Tax Grant FY22 Annual Report (October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022)

Presenters: GRHC Board of Directors, Deborah Tinsley, Dr. Anthony Santiago, Judith Roth, Dr. Viji Murugavel, Carolyn Thompson, Susan Kelley, Priscilla Foote, Max Haake

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services – Fourth Quarter Report and Year-End Summary

Presenters: Diana Lopez-Jones, Anthony L. Young

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. 3rd & 4th Quarter Budget for American Legion Haskell Osife Antone Post 51

Presenters: David Anderson, Belen Lawlor

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Gila River Police Department Personnel Update

Presenter: William T. Morago

REPORT HEARD

>7. FY2022 4th Quarter Executive Travel Report as of September 30, 2022

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

8. FY2022 Annual Report, Tribal Social Services

Presenters: Kelly Vickrey, Christina Lopez, Julian Garza, Taura Mendoza, Curtis Slatina

REPORT HEARD

9. Tribal Health Department FY 2022 Annual Report (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)

Presenter: Candalerian Preston

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision-FY2022 Annual Report (October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022)

Presenter: Ron Lopez

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

11. Gila River Police Department-FY2022 Annual Report (October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022)

Presenter: William T. Morago

REPORT HEARD

>12. GRSF FY22 Q4 Report

Presenter: Michael Morago, Donna Stowell, GRSF Board of Directors

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

13. Tribal Historic Preservation Office FY 2022 Annual Report

Presenters: Barnaby V. Lewis, Larry Benallie Jr., Darius Enos, Reylynn Williams

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

{GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:50 A.M.}

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #14 AND #15

14. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council October 2022 (Executive Session)

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

ACCEPTED

15. Gila River Gaming Enterprises Inc. Monthly Report for October 2022 (Executive Session)

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

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #14

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. FY2023 Schedule of Investments – October 31, 2022 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ITEM HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. FY2023 Monthly Financial Activity Report ending October 31, 2022 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ITEM HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

### RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving A Letter Of Agreement Between Gila River Indian Community Fire Department And Maricopa County Community College District For Emergency Medical Technician And Paramedic Preceptorship (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with correction, LSC concurs)

Presenter: Kathy Garcia

APPROVED

>2. A Resolution Approving The Form System Conservation Agreement To Conserve Up To 8,900 Acre-Feet Of Additional Community CAP Water In 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda, NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Thomas L. Murphy, Jason Hauter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Approving A Program-Funded State, Tribal And Local Task Force Agreement Between The Gila River Police Department

Of The Gila River Indian Community And The United States Department Of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jesse Crabtree, William T. Morago, Rebecca Hall

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (Allotment 3942) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda, NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Eugene Blackwater, Kimberly Antone, Talia Apkaw, Javier G. Ramos

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (Allotment 2533) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda, NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Eugene Blackwater, Kimberly Antone, Talia Apkaw, Javier G. Ramos

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### ORDINANCES

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### NEW BUSINESS

>1. Blackwater Community School Written Plan for Tribal Allocation FY2023 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Misty Lopez, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Sacaton Elementary School Written Plan for Tribal Allocation FY2023 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Stephanie Celis, Lynnette Michalski, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Sacaton Middle School Written Plan for Tribal Allocation FY2023 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Debbie Ybarra, Lynnette Michalski, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Casa Blanca Community School Written Plan for Tribal Allocation FY2023 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Kim Franklin, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Gila Crossing Community School Written Plan for Tribal Allocation FY2023 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Jim Mosley, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

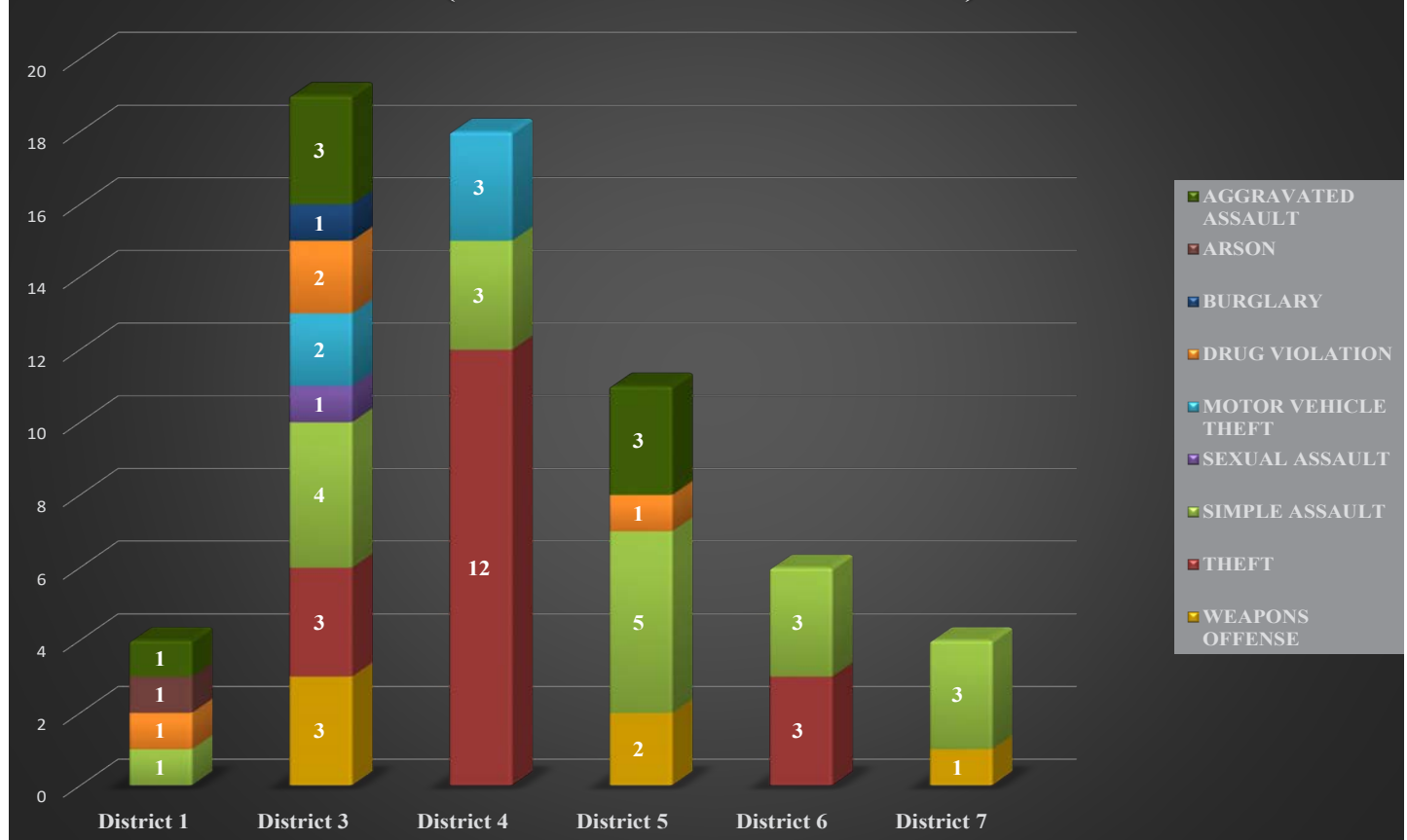
>6. St. Peter Indian Mission School Written Plan for Tribal Allocation FY 2023 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Sister Martha Carpenter, Fabian Terry, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL

## Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

### Community Wide- Part 1 Crimes (November 29 - December 11)



Continued on next page

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS Cont.'d

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • Dec. 7, 2022

### From previous page

#### OF AGENDA

7. Travel Policy – Non-Submittal of Receipts (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to make a decision to suspend the travel) Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND TRAVEL FOR 60 CALENDAR DAYS FOR COUNCILWOMAN WAHLEAN RIGGS

>8. FY 2022 Lone Butte Development Audit Wrap Up/Audit Report/Management Letter (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept; EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda) Presenters: Chris Bitakis

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. GRGE Request for Enterprise Orientation and Work Session (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with the recommended date of January 19, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

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

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

10. Preliminary Assessment – Code of Conduct Complaint (LSC forwards the Code of Conduct Complaint to a complete investigation pursuant to Section 1.501.B.3 to be conducted either by the Office of General Counsel or an outside firm selected by OGC; LSC forwards to Council pursuant to Section 1.501.B.4 and recommends that Councilwoman Wahlean Riggs be suspended with pay pending the outcome of the investigation and that the suspension include conditions that would prohibit any direct or in-

direct acts of retaliation against any witnesses to the grievance)

Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Shannon White  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO FORWARD THE CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT TO A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.501.B.3 TO BE CONDUCTED EITHER BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL OR AN OUTSIDE FIRM SELECTED BY OGC; LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE FORWARDS TO COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.501.B.4 AND RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCILWOMAN WAHLEAN RIGGS BE SUSPENDED WITH PAY PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THAT THE SUSPENSION INCLUDE CONDITIONS THAT WOULD PROHIBIT ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT ACTS OF RETALIATION AGAINST ANY WITNESS TO THE GRIEVANCE

#### MINUTES

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

• POLICE DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION OWNER'S TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

• HOUSING OWNERS TEAM MEETING THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2022 AT 1:30 P.M.

• BUREAU OF RECLAMATION MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M. WITH THE CONSULTATION MEETING TO FOLLOW

• IOPC MEETING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022 9:00 A.M.

• WHPDA BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:01 P.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

**\*\*NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT\*\***  
**RESIDENT NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION**  
**DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2023**

- ✓ The Community's Residency Ordinance requires all adults (18 years of age and older) who are not enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community, but who reside within the boundaries of the Community to register their residency.
- ✓ All non-member residents 18 years of age and older who reside within the boundaries of the Community must register their residency with the Enrollment Department by January 31st each year.
- ✓ Previously registered non-member residents will receive a renewal form by mail. All other non-member residents should contact the Enrollment Department to request a registration form.
- ✓ The Registration Form maybe submitted in person at the Enrollment Office, a photo ID is required.  
 Governance Center  
 525 W Gu U Ki  
 Sacaton, AZ 85147
- ✓ Registration Forms can be submitted by email, fax or mail. Notary required. Mailing address:  
 GRIC Enrollment Department  
 P.O. Box 97  
 Sacaton, AZ 85147



**Questions? Contact Enrollment:**  
 Phone: (520) 562-3790  
 Fax: (520) 562-3103  
 Email: [enrollment.dept@gric.nai.us](mailto:enrollment.dept@gric.nai.us)

What you can do to help prevent getting sick this holiday season and protecting your loved ones from:  
**RSV | COVID | FLU**

**Get VACCINATED** and boosted when possible. Vaccines can help protect you and boosters help in extending that protection.

**AVOID close contact with sick people**  
 Celebrate with those who already live in your household and limit outside guests.

**Wash your hands OFTEN**  
 • For 20 seconds with soap and water  
 • Especially after you cough or sneeze  
 • Be sure to monitor and assist young children

**Wear a mask**  
 Protect you and your family by wearing a face mask around those who do not live in the household.  
 \*Especially infants and elders who are at higher risk.

**Practice Physical Distancing whenever possible**  
 • Limit the amount of people you invite  
 • Keep tables apart if possible  
 • Avoid hugs with other individuals if possible

**AVOID touching your face**  
 Try not to touch your nose, eyes or mouth as you may contract or spread any bacteria you came in contact with. If you must touch your face, wash your hands immediately before and after doing so.

**Clean and Disinfect**  
 Frequently wipe down objects and surfaces that are touched often such as: light switches, handles, remotes, bathrooms, etc.

**If you feel unwell...**  
 Or believe it is "just" allergies OR a common cold GET TESTED and **STAY HOME**

For more information on RSV, COVID, or FLU visit the CDC Website. Or Visit your healthcare provider. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Community Health Education Program at: (520)562-5100

**PIMA AGENCY 2023 FIRE SEASON**

**OPEN APPLICATIONS WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS**

**December 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023**  
**FIRE MANAGEMENT BLD #7**  
**Sacaton, AZ**

**REQUIREMENTS**

- MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO APPLY
- INTERVIEW WITH THE FIRE MANAGEMENT
- PASS A DRUG TEST (PAID BY APPLICANT)
  - PASS A PHYSICAL
  - PACK TEST

**For more information, contact Cynthia Johnson @ the fire management office at (520)562-3974.**

**COURT DATE NOTICE**  
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
 In Re Case: Bryce Jackson vs. Randal Lyons  
 Docket Number: CV-2022-0277-RO  
 Restraining Order Hearing  
 This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may be ordered.  
 Friday, January 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.  
 Sacaton Judicial Center 721 East Seed Farm Road P. O. Box 368 Sacaton, AZ 85247 (520)562-9860  
 GIVEN to all parties present this Friday, December 16, 2022, in open court.

# Community Gathers for DEQ Winter Bird Count

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

The Community's annual Winter Bird Count took place in person this year on Saturday Dec. 3. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) hosted the event. This year the event drew 70 participants across GRIC. Participants set out for a morning of "birding," where they identified and tracked several species of birds that call the Community home.

Unfortunately, rainy weather conditions hampered some data collection this year, as birds aren't readily out during rain. Nonetheless, participants set out that morning at the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site #5 (MAR5),

District 6, and District 7 to search for birds in the area.

Tison Gill, DEQ Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist said, "I would just like to thank everyone that made it out. This was our first community-wide event since before COVID, so it was nice to see everyone excited and enthusiastic about helping the Community collect our bird data." Despite the weather, many people participated, so Gill was pleased with the outcome.

Gill shared that after compiling the data, they saw an abundance of Mourning Doves, White Crowned Sparrows, Gambel's Quails, Ravens, and Vultures. In addition, many common birds in



Gila River Indian Community and Audubon society members begin their data collection at MAR 5 in District 3. Photo courtesy of Gila River Broadcasting Corp.



Casa Blanca served as a site for this year's Winter Bird Count. Photo courtesy of Gila River Broadcasting Corp.

the Community, like the red-spotted blackbird, owls, and red-tailed hawks were also recorded.

As in years past, several members from Audubon societies joined Community members and DEQ to assist with the bird identification. Members of the Desert Rivers, Maricopa, and Sonoran Audubon societies served as leads at each site. And Dr. Dave

Pearson, from Arizona State University, brought some of his students to assist throughout the event.

While the rain factored into the lack of visible birds in flight, members of the Audubon societies could identify birds based on their chirps, calls, and noises. Their knowledge was helpful for identification but didn't allow them to track the number of

birds heard.

For this year's event, DEQ partnered with the Huhugam Heritage Center for a post-event gathering for cultural presentations by the staff. But, because the event was outdoors, the rain forced DEQ to cancel this portion of the program. However, the Heritage Center was accommodating, assisting DEQ distribute lunches and in-

centives for everyone and also opening the museum for everyone to tour.

While the Winter Bird Count didn't go as planned, DEQ is already in the planning stages for their next Community event. DEQ's annual Earth Day event will return in-person in April 2023.

### PRESS RELEASE

Pinal County Superintendent of Schools, Jill Broussard, has announced the appointment of Karen White to the Sacaton School District's Governing Board. She will fill a vacancy created by the ending of her 2-year term seat and no other candidates filing interest; Lucinda will be seated until 12/31/2024.

### S-ko:mag Mashath, Klishmas Haichu, Word Search 2022-Key!

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## Gila River Community

# Bike Ride Series

### 2022-2023

**Gila River Fall Bike Ride in District 3**  
Saturday, November 5, 2022 10:00am  
5 mile Route & 10 mile Route

**Gila River Winter Bike Ride in District 6**  
Saturday, January 7, 2023 10:00am  
5 mile Route & 10 mile Route

**Gila River Bike Tour Day 2 from**  
Wild Horse Pass to Casa Blanca Market  
Sunday, February 19, 2023 10:00am  
17 mile Route

**Gila River Spring Bike Ride in District 4**  
Saturday, March 25, 2023 10:00am  
5 mile Route & 10 mile Route

**Water Rights Day Bike Ride at MAR 5**  
Saturday, December 10, 2022 10:00am  
5 mile Route & 10 mile Route

**Gila River Bike Tour Day 1**  
from District 6 to Wild Horse Pass  
Saturday, February 18, 2023 10:00am  
12 mile Route

**Gila River Bike Tour Day 3 from**  
Casa Blanca Market to Blackwater  
Monday, February 20, 2023 10:00am  
21 mile Route

**Register Here**





Additional Questions Contact Elisha Bishop at (520) 858-2774

# What's New at GRICUA?

## GRICUA's Customer Appreciation Day



On November 17, 2022, GRICUA held its second Customer Appreciation Day. GRICUA's General Manager Ken Stock provided the welcome message. GRICUA Customer Service provided information on the billing programs that GRICUA has available and reviewed key dates in the billing cycle. The GRICUA Line Crew shared GRICUA's electric safety demonstration "Power-Town". GRICUA also provided free hot dogs and provided tours of the office building, warehouse and yard. GRICUA also raffled \$50.00 VISA gift cards throughout the day. GRICUA plans to have this event annually, so please join us next year!

### Statewide Lineman's Rodeo

The Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) recently held their annual Lineman Rodeo in Benson, AZ. This is not your typical rodeo. The Lineman's Rodeo attracts the best linemen from around the region to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks and skills. It is an opportunity for the linemen to display their skills while promoting safety. Trevor Thompson and Dusty Woodard represented GRICUA at the rodeo. Trevor participated in the Hurt Man Rescue, Obstacle Course and the Knot Tying event. He also helped

in the team events: Crossarm Change Out and a Transformer Change Out. Dusty Woodard participated as a rodeo judge. Thanks to our General Foreman Sam Jimenez for taking these pictures.



### Christmas Energy Saving Tips

Here are some holiday energy saving tips to try this Christmas.

1. Buy LED holiday string lights – there are plenty of options for energy-efficient Christmas lights or buy timed Christmas lights that shut off automatically.
2. Limiting your Christmas light use – now that you've already spent money on Christmas lights, consider buying a smart plug for the outlet. That way you can use voice control, smartphone apps or a built-in timer to turn the lights off at whatever time you'd like.
3. Using less regular lighting during the holidays – remember to turn off your regular lights if your holiday lights are enough.
4. Maybe downsize all those lawn decorations – limit the number of inflatables you set up in your yard or alternate which decorations get used each year.
5. Dress for the cold, even inside – while it's still ugly sweater season, feel free to wear sweaters and bundle under blankets indoors. This will allow you to set your temperature a little lower to help you consume less energy.
6. Don't touch that thermostat – set the thermostat as low as you can but enough to be comfortable and warm.

7. Give the gift of savings this holiday – consider buying more efficient versions of appliances or use a tablet instead of a laptop.

8. Motion sensors and other smart home devices – motion sensors will automatically shut off lights once a set time has passed without movement, so never again will you return home to find that you left a light on.

### Budget Billing Program

GRICUA's Budget Billing Program is a no cost program that averages out your seasonal highs and lows based on a rolling twelve-month average of your bills. Customer bills will vary from month to month, however they should stay at a consistent average based on your rolling usage. Budget billing amounts will be able to be submitted to your District Service Center for Community assistance based on your eligibility. Please call (520) 796-0600 for more information.

### Bill Payment Options for GRICUA Residential Customers:

- GRICUA Drop Payment Box
- Online (VISA and Mastercard Credit/Debit Cards and E-check)
- GRICUA Mobile App
- By phone (520-796-0600, 24 hours a day)
- By mail (6636 W. Sundust Rd., Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226)

### Reminders

#### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

GRICUA is a member of Arizona Blue Stake. Please call 1-800-782-5348 to request an underground line locate of both GRICUA and SCIP on reservation facilities.

GRICUA welcomes your comments. You can email comments to [gricuacomment@gricua.net](mailto:gricuacomment@gricua.net). You can also go to our website at [www.gricua.net](http://www.gricua.net).

### GRICUA's Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Payments are accepted on-line and by phone both during our normal operating hours as well as afterhours. If you have any questions regarding your statement or payment options please call during normal business hours.

## NOTICE of PUBLIC SCOPING

### Environmental Assessment for the Project Revel Development

#### District 6 of the Gila River Indian Community

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Pima Agency (BIA) and the Gila River Indian Community (Community) are releasing this public notice of an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Project Revel (Project) in District 6 of the Community. The Project would consist of a new warehouse and distribution park that would provide a major regional hub for the storage and movement of goods and services. Willis Road would be extended west from 40th Street to the Project. This notice is intended to provide details about the Project and to request your input.

#### Proposed Action

The Project proponent, Revel-Scannell LLC, is pursuing a commercial master lease from the BIA for the development of a new warehouse and distribution park on approximately 270 acres (20 Tribal; 250 allotted) of Community land. The Project would be located approximately 0.5-mile west of 40th Street and Willis Road (refer to Vicinity Map). The warehouse and distribution park would include multistory buildings for light industrial and commercial uses. Final site design would depend on prevailing business needs; however, key project components would include:

- A total of 8 new buildings providing approximately 3.6 million square feet of space.
- Future build-to suit buildings providing approximately 1.0 million additional square feet of space.
- Buildings would range between 24 to 48 feet in height.
- Employee and visitor parking lots and interior roadways.

The Project would connect all required utilities associated with the warehouse and distribution park, including electrical service, water, sewer, communications, etc. through coordination with the Community and local service providers.

• Stormwater would be detained in basins or swales and allowed to percolate onsite, instead of being discharged.

• Extension of Willis Road west of 40th Street to the Project to provide 2 to 4 travel lanes.

Site development would begin in early 2023, with build-out expected to occur over a 10-year period. Vehicle access along 40th Street and Willis Road would be maintained throughout construction periods; however, vehicle traffic along these roadways could experience occasional short-term temporary delays. No transportation detours or changes in transportation access are anticipated.

The Project proponent coordinated with the BIA on an approximately 205-acre project site located east of 40th Street within District 4 (referred to as Project Scannell) which was noticed in June 2022 and published in the June 17 and July 15, 2022 issues of the Gila River Indian News. The Community and the Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation expressed interest in developing land east of 40th Street that is more compatible with existing development. Based on this information, the Project proponent is reviewing the development of a commercial project on the currently proposed 270-acre site in lieu of the previous location.

Development of the proposed Project on allotted land requires approval of the commercial master lease by the BIA, which is considered a federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will include analysis of allotted and Tribal land, should the Community decide to have Tribal land and allotted land in the same lease. An easement is anticipated for the extension of Willis Road and would also be evaluated in the EA.

#### Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Project is to build an approximately 270-acre business park on Community land to support new light industrial and commercial uses. The Project would create business opportunities within the Community that would facilitate and diversify economic growth, provide needed goods and services and employment opportunities, and provide lease payments to the Community and allotted landowners.

#### Scoping Period

As part of NEPA, federal agencies are required to consider the potential social and environmental impacts of proposed actions. This letter serves as the BIA's invitation to you or your agency to submit comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed action. All comments received become part of the public record associated with this EA. Accordingly, your comments (including your name and address) will be available for review by any person that wishes to view the record. At your request we will withhold your contact information to the extent allowed by the Freedom of Information Act. Please submit your comments within 30 days of posting of this notice.

Cecilia Baker, Superintendent  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency  
P.O. Box 8  
Sacaton, Arizona 85147  
Telephone: (520) 562-3326  
Email: [Cecilia.Baker@bia.gov](mailto:Cecilia.Baker@bia.gov)

# SUSTAINABLE management

CAP is adapting to the Colorado River shortage by collaborating with partners and addressing impacts from extended drought and overallocation of water.

**YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.**

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Hey everyone!  
Don't be so  
trashy... PLEASE  
RECYCLE!

It takes 4 centuries for a plastic bottle to decompose. Your great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandchildren will be alive when the plastic water bottle you threw in the trash today finally breaks down! Recycling can turn that water bottle into a usable item in a matter of weeks. Other types of heavier plastic can take up to 1000 years to decompose. For information on what is and isn't recyclable, please contact the Department of Environmental Quality at (520) 562-2234 or visit [gricdeq.org](http://gricdeq.org) Thank you for recycling!

When you recycle, you respect future generations,  
your environment and your Community.

GRIC Dept. of Environmental Quality (520)562-2234 [gricdeq.org](http://gricdeq.org)



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**2020 FORD F150 SUPERCREW**



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**Get More For Your Trade \$2500 Minimum!**

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**Huge Savings!**

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**2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT**



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DEC 31 | 10PM  
**DUELING DJS**



JAN 21 | 8PM  
**CHRIS CAGLE**



FEB 24 | 8PM  
**LOCASH**



MAR 11 | 8PM  
**TRIBUTE TO BOB SEGER**  
*TURN THE PAGE*



Wild Horse Pass  
Lone Butte  
Vee Quiva

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE **WILD HORSE PASS BOX OFFICE** AND **PLAYATGILA.COM**

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