



GRIC Member Gary T. Mix Sworn in as New Tribal Treasurer, Succeeds Keller

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Gary T. Mix, from District 4 (Stotonic), was sworn-in as the new Treasurer for the Gila River Indian Community on Jan 1.

Mix replaces long-time Treasurer Robert Keller, who retired on Dec. 31, 2021. Keller was instrumental in his work in the Community over the years, working closely with Executive Office, Community Council and others.

Mix served as Budget Administrator for the Treasurer's Office for over five years prior to his appointment as Treasurer.

"I'm excited. I'm ready to keep things moving forward here and working with the leadership, council, the staff and all our internal and external clients," said Mix. He said he sees the role as working to "support the Community's endeavors and support our department personnel."

Mix grew up in the Community and attended grade school here before attending Chemawa High School in Salem, Ore. He currently lives in District 6.

In 2002, Mix began working for the Community as a file clerk. He has served in numerous positions, including Secretary III, Program Accountant and Senior Accountant for planning/financial reporting.

"I learned a lot and gained a lot of experience and completed school," said Mix, who attend the University of Oregon where he received his Master's in Information Management. His undergrad degree is in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting through Chandler-Gilbert Community College and DeVry University.

Mix was sworn in by GRIC Chief Judge Anthony Hill during a small ceremony at the Governance Center in Sacaton, where he was joined by his parents, Susan Morago and Gary Mix, who stood beside him.

"He's earned it, he went to school, put his time in" said his father, Gary Mix, "I'm proud, the whole family is proud."

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Gary T. Mix is sworn-in as GRIC Treasurer by Chief Judge Anthony Hill during a ceremony at the GRIC Governance Center on Jan. 01. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Documentary, Panel Discussion Shed Light on MMIWG Crisis in Indigenous Communities

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A film documentary about the epidemic of violence against indigenous women received a special screening at the Heard Museum on Dec. 18. "Somebody's Daughter" highlights the Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls crisis in America. Its indigenous director, who goes by the single name Rain in film circles, hails from Lame Deer, a Montana town on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

"By the very fact that you came out here tonight, I consider each and every one of you as a part of that coalition of consciousness," said Rain. He explained that it takes a coalition of conscious-minded individuals to bring to light the issue of MMIWG, but that it will take more buy-in from law enforcement and the government to help families search for their missing loved one.

Rain said that he never intended to be a standard-bearer

on the issue, but that he felt compelled to put his filmmaking skills to use in documenting the severity of the MMIWG crisis. A father himself, Rain said he understands how families can live in fear not knowing if their daughter will become the next victim of a heinous crime.

"I have an 18-year-old, she's growing up into her teen years," said Rain. "Like everybody who has a teenage daughter will understand, it comes with responsibilities and challenges," said Rain. He recounted talking to his daughter about the dangers that are out there and what can happen if she finds herself in similar situation as other indigenous families have, searching for a missing family member.

The film highlights a range of issues faced by indigenous women, including murder, substance abuse, organized crime tied to big city gangs and "man camps," which occur when violence-prone male workers involved in the



"Somebody's Daughter" Director Rain talks about the documentary on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, during a discussion panel with MMIW advocates on Dec. 18. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

extraction of natural resources move in immediately beside tribal communities.

The film also covers how criminal activity perpetrated

on indigenous women can be compounded by lack of response from local law enforcement in the investigation of a missing person. The film offers insight into the

string of dead ends and grassroots efforts to locate a missing person, often resulting in family members

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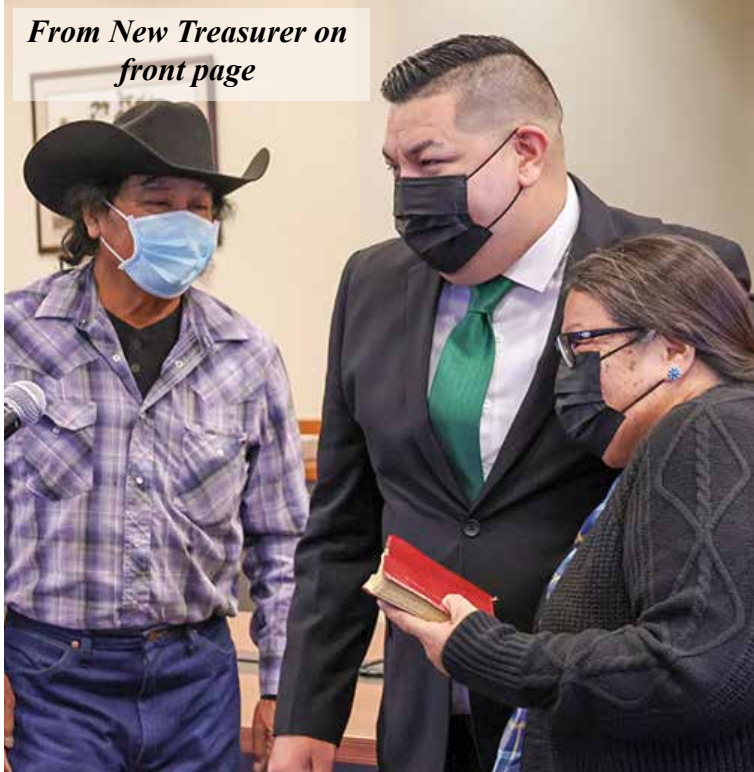
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From New Treasurer on front page



Newly sworn Treasurer, Gary T. Mix is joined by his parents, Gary and Susan Morago. Emma Hughes/GRIN. At right, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone presented retiring Treasurer Robert Keller with a plaque and Pendleton blanket, during a farewell luncheon on Dec. 28. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO



From front page

needing to conduct their own search for a loved one who has gone missing.

After the film concluded, a discussion panel was hosted with speakers from grassroots and tribal communities in Arizona, facilitated by Arizona Congressman Greg Stanton. The panel included Gila River Indian Community Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, who has been instrumental in advocating for more resources to solve MMIWG cases.

"It is good for everyone involved in bringing resolution to this growing issue and for coming out to watch an emotional film on a problem that affects us in one way or another," said Lt. Gov. Antone.

Other representatives on the panel discussion included Dr. Kate Fox, Arizona State University and Valaura Imus-Nashonhoya, the Executive Director and Founder of Honwungsi Consulting Services. Honwungsi is a consulting service that assists with cases involving missing persons from

tribal communities.

Lt. Gov. Antone also discussed the important work being done on the issue by a state legislative study committee and at the grassroots level. She thanked state Sen. Jennifer Jermaine and Jamescita Peshlakai for their work and Rep. Stanton. Antone also cited the commitment of family members, many of whom have lost loved ones, in bringing MMIWG to greater prominence in the public eye.

Stanton, the Congressman, called the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women "tragically one of the most underreported, underdiscussed and underfunded tragedies in America today."

He said everyone has work to do to bring to light the severity of the crisis and to win justice for the victims. "Here in Arizona, we have the third-highest number of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in the country," said Stanton. "Far too often, when native women are murdered or they vanish, we rarely see their faces or hear their names in the news."



L-R, Film director Rain stands with Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, who both represented the Community during the screening of "Somebody's Daughter," on Dec. 18. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gas Leak at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Spurs Quick and Safe Response

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021 at 12 p.m., a gas line ruptured near the Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital facility, prompting emergency evacuations and a response by the Community's Fire Department and Hazardous Materials Team.

The team was informed, that morning at a construction site near Building Seven, a trench collapsed on a one-inch natural gas pipeline causing the leak. Hospital staff were immediately alerted, and all hospital staff and patients were evacuated. The incident temporarily closed several departments and services, with all emergency services diverted to nearby emergency departments in the region.

No one was injured from the incident. "When gas accumulates underground or within buildings, there is significant potential for

it to ignite and cause a fire or an explosion, so we had to take every precaution to eliminate that possibility," said Jaiurus Pierce, Shift Commander for the Gila River Fire Department. "If that were to happen, the impact to the Community would be significant because HHK is such a critical piece of infrastructure. So protecting the lives of everyone and the infrastructure of HHK was everyone's priority."

The event prompted a "major incident" response, many of those who responded were members of the Community's Type 3 Incident Management Team, who arrived to facilitate the transporting of patients, supporting the repair efforts, evaluated gas levels in and around the hospital, and provided clear lines of communication to the Community and GRIC leadership. The team consisted of members from the Gila River Fire Dept., Gila River EMS, Gila River

Police Dept., Office of Emergency Management, and support by the Communications and Public Affairs Office.

Gila River EMS transported patients who had been in the hospital to safe locations in Sacaton or to surrounding medical facilities. Additionally, through mutual aid agreements, Sun Lakes and Casa Grande Fire Departments assisted by providing fire truck and manpower, moving into Fire Station 423 in Sacaton where they could respond to emergency calls in the Community during this time.

Southwest Gas fixed the issue within hours after the initial leak. However, monitoring gas levels above and underground and in the hospital was critical before reporting an "all clear." The "all clear" signal was given at 4:20 p.m., by incident command, prompting a return of staff and patients with limited hospital

services for the remainder of the day.

Unfortunately, gas lines were affected in Sacaton as part of the repair, leaving almost 500 residents without gas that evening. Southwest Gas immediately began restoring gas to those residents, but the repair required relighting "pilot lights" for many customers. Going door to door lasted until the following day.

Despite the impact of homes without gas, Gila River Fire Department commended the departments that responded, specifically the Office of Emergency Management and its Mobile Incident Command Unit (MICU). The Unit provided space for the Fire Department and members of the Community's Management Incident Team to effectively convene to assist with crucial decision-making and provide communication to the Community.

Culture Corner

A'AG A

Submitted by
Billy Allen

Wishing 2022 sees our community, state, nation on the upswing, Covid in the rearview mirror. Hoping we all took community health considerations into our minds while we celebrated the New Year. New Year traditions and even dates vary among different cultures. Chinese celebrate Chunjie known as the "Lunar New Year" in February. Thai people observe Songkran in April. Jewish people have Rosh Hashanah in September. O'odham prefer an abundance of food, and for our ancestors it came during mid-summer. The Saguaro harvest represents a new cycle or year.

In 1909-1910, Norwegian explorer Carl Lumholtz traveled within Sonora and Southwestern Arizona to write about different cultures of our region. His book, *New Trails in Mexico*, notes a spring equinox—a time of renewal and

rebirth — event he observed among Tohono O'odham. O'odham sat around a basket containing seeds and four saguaro/ha:san ribs. All night the O'odham sang, and at dawn the seeds were given to eat. The four ribs were given to individuals whose duty was to place the rib at the foot of a ha:san when the fruit harvest began later in summer. Lumholtz also heard a this ha:san story. Elder Brother flung his sweat on the ground then walked around it four times. Four days later, ha:san grew from the circle. Elder Brother gathered the fruit, squeezed the juice into a jar, mixing in water. Soon the brew turned into wine, and it began to rain.

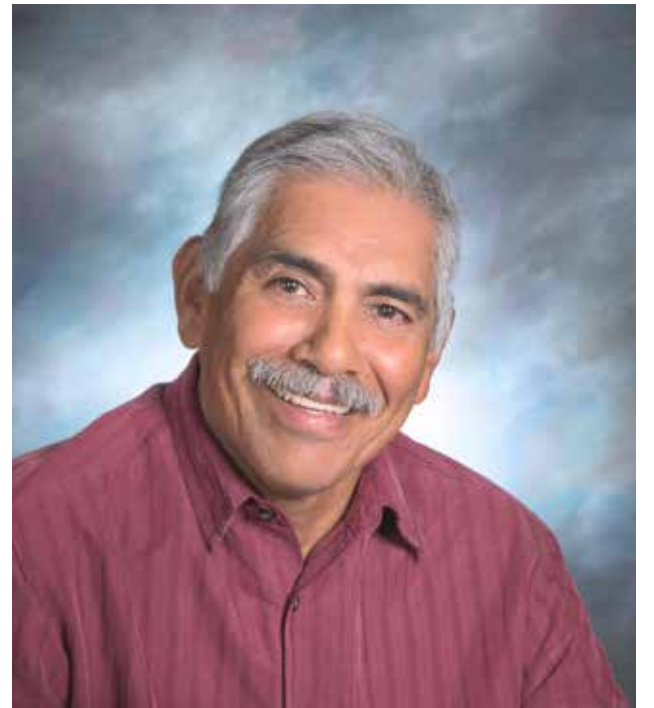
It's good that Toka has been revived in O'otham communities. This rough, running, competitive game—similar to field hockey—has a tie to ha:san. A toka player was so wrapped up into playing that she just kept neglecting her baby to go out to play. Disapproving

neighbors forced her to travel further and further away from home to find a game that other players would let her join. In time, the boy went searching for his mother, but when he found her, she just kept on playing. She told him to wait until the game was over. Frustrated, the boy sank into the ground. When the toka obsessed mother finally came to her son, it was too late. Even animal helpers couldn't help rescue the boy. Later, a ha:san appeared where the boy had disappeared. The people realized this was the neglected boy in a different form, but still part of the O'odham family. Ethnobiologist Amadeo Rea heard this story in 1998 from a West End/Kuiva elder. Rea's book, *At the Desert's Green Edge*, details O'otham, Pima Bajo, and Mountain Pima O'odham ethnobotany.

Previously the scientific name for saguaros was *cereus giganteus*, but it

got renamed in honor of the ultra-rich steel baron Andrew Carnegie. Why? Carnegie wasn't just a steel baron; he was also a philanthropist who gave \$10 million to study how plants adapt to thrive in deserts. In 1902, Tumamoc Mountain, Cemamagi Du'ag/Horned Lizard Mountain of Tucson was selected for the location of the Desert Botanical Laboratory, a branch of the Carnegie Institution. When Carnegie visited, he was informed ha:san had a new scientific name, "*Carnegiea Gigantea*". He was both flattered and upset. Maybe he felt the name change was playing up to him. Funding continued though. Tumamoc also has Huhugam petroglyphs and is considered a sacred site. Much has been learned about ha:san due to the Desert Laboratory, now operated by the University of Arizona. Wildcats are desert defenders. (I don't think so for football.)

I just learned about



acanthochronology, a way to study cactus stickers in a way similar to tree rings. Ha:san can survive varying degrees of heat and cold, but in this time of climate change, warming oceans change air currents causing unusual weather such as very powerful hurricanes, tornadoes, and "atmospheric rivers." Extreme temperatures are harmful to ha:san, just as they are to we humans. Decades from now, I hope cactus spine studies show our earth started a cooling trend in the rest of the 2020s, '30s, 40's.

2022—what can we do to help the tall ones who do not speak? Six months away is the O'otham New Year. During that time, maybe we can be more "green"—like ha:san—and try to conserve energy and water as much as we can. Help put the brakes on climate change. Stand up for our communities and families, for the young ones who inherit our actions and our inactions.

The book, *The Saguaro Cactus, A Natural History* by D. Yetman, A. Búrquez, K. Hultine, M. Sanderson, is also an excellent read.

Winter Bird Count IDs More than 200 Bird Species Across the Community

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Department of Environmental Quality hosted the annual winter bird count in person on Dec. 4 after airing the event virtually last year on Gila River Indian Community social media outlets. The winter bird count was held at the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5 Interpretive Trail and led by DEQ staff.

The bird count is a way for Community members and bird enthusiasts to track the winter migrations of feathered visitors to GRIC. The effort was assisted by Prof. David Pearson of the Arizona State University School of Life Sciences.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to work alongside the Gila River to document how many birds are visiting the Community," said Pearson. He estimated that the number of bird species who visit GRIC can increase by as many as a hundred-new species annually.

During this year's winter bird count over 200 bird species were documented in the Community, with a majority of them finding their way to MAR 5 to nest. Pearson said many of them are looking

for sanctuary and happen to find a stopping place in the lagoons and waterways of GRIC.

Based on the yearly trend of bird migrations, climate change is one of the contributing factors to more and more birds making their winter home in the Community, said Pearson. The MAR 5, with its lush environment, serves as a hospitable zone for water fowl like the mallard duck, northern harrier and great blue heron.

"This year I was pleased [we] were able to open it a little more. We had a number of Audobon members come out and Community members who came out," said Tison Gill, DEQ Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist. "It was nice to go out in the field again to have a good time and collect a lot of data," said Gill.

Gill said the team collected data from six different sites across the Community. "Each year we try to do it at the same time just because of the migration of the birds.

Depending on what time of the season the bird count is conducted, Gill said it can drastically change the data collected due to the migratory patterns and other

environmental factors.

"I think we identified 200 species this year," said Gill. "Ever since MAR 5 was ... fully running with water and the plant life that has come to it, we've seen an uptick in bird species."

During an online broadcast of a pre-recorded segment about this year's winter bird count, data collected from each of the sites surveyed was presented to viewers. From the data collected at each of the six sites, there were 126,397 birds counted, with an average of 37.16 percent of different species per location.

According to Robert Johnson, Huhugam Heritage Center Language Specialist, many of the birds have cultural significance among the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh people. "I pass that knowledge on to the Community youth and the schools and the members, so they learn about their habitat, learn about their behavior and learn about the songs and their calls, even about their bird names in Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh," said Johnson.

Johnson encouraged Community members to learn more about the birds, their habitat and how their migratory patterns have

shifted in part due to climate change.

"We have these changes in our climate and these birds let us know how it is affecting us globally and (locally)," said Johnson, who stressed the importance of cultural and individual responsibility to the viewing audience.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone also addressed the viewers, especially youth who can pick-up a book

provided by the Tribal Education Department on birds and their traditional Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh names.

"The cultural aspect of the bird count brings together the Community, especially youth and elders to celebrate the cultural ties to the birds of the Community," said Antone. "Culturally enriching bird songs, dances and stories at the event are shared by

knowledgeable culture leaders of the Community," said Lt. Gov. Antone.

For Woodrow Crumbo, DEQ Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Management Program Manager, it was good to have the in-person bird count to help collect data on migratory birds.

"It's always a lot more fun when you have more participants and you're learning something," said Crumbo.



David Pearson, ASU Life Sciences Research Professor led a tour of bird watchers during the winter bird count on Dec. 4. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

2022 MVU Vaccination Campaign Kicks Off at Gila Crossing School and Community Schools

GRIN Staff

The Mobile Vaccination Units kicked off its 2022 schedule serving Community families on Jan. 3 at the Gila Crossing Community School (GCCS). With COVID-19 infection rates rising in the Community, holding in-person classes this spring semester remains tentative. But Community schools and the Tribal Education Dept. are taking aggressive steps to vaccinate families and children by providing MVUs at their schools before classes begin Jan 18.

The event drew Community members, staff, and tribal employees out for vaccines and booster shots. A total of 24 vaccinations were given to attendees ages five through adult at GCCS MVU.

“We wanted to be proactive and take the lead with getting families and kids vaccinated and boosted today,” said GCCS Superintendent Jim Mosley. “We have taken additional precautions to help keep this place the safest place possible, including air purification systems, ventilation purification systems, and increased hand sanitation stations. I thank the Gila River Indian Community for providing these upgrades.”

GCCS’s board has passed a mandatory vaccination policy for staff at the school. Today, GCCS boasts a 100% vaccination rate for their staff and faculty.

“We need our students back in school for in-person learning, and one of the best strategies to get there

is to have ... students and families get vaccinated,” said TED Director Isaac Salcido. “There are many advantages to doing events like this at the schools, but another strategy is to consider ongoing testing for students so we can assure parents that students are getting the medical attention they need and keep students safe for in-person schooling.”

The MVU drew many families to the event to get their scheduled second shot or one of the booster doses approved for teens and adults.

GCCS sixth-grader Crissie Lewis received her first COVID-19 vaccination at the event. As timid as she was that morning, she said afterward that she feels better with an extra layer of protection against COVID-19. Lewis said she hopes to go back to in-person schooling, which she prefers to learning online.

Teenager Savannah Joe also got vaccinated. Her mother brought her and her brother from District 4 to get their booster shots at the MVU event.

“When the cases started going up again, I decided to get the booster. And now I feel better protected going to school and traveling for rodeo,” said Joe. “I think if you go out in public a lot and travel, you should really think about getting vaccinated if you can, especially with the numbers going up.”

Parents and students at Casa Blanca Community School came out to receive their vaccine.

“My children are enrolled at Blackwater



Penny Mix brought her daughter Savannah Joe and son Delbert Allison to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, during a vaccine clinic at Gila Crossing Community School on Jan. 3. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Community School and are set to return on the eighteenth,” said Nelliana Terry from District 4. “It’s really accessible. We are just down the road and its way more convenient, knowing all of [us] can come here and get vaccinated.”

During the vaccination clinic held at Sacaton Elementary School, large families came out to get vaccinated as the school prepares to again host in-person classes. Felicia Lewis from District 4 was joined by her son and mother to get vaccinated. Another parent, Deanna Cooper of District 4 brought her four children out to get vaccinated, out of concern for the rise in cases and her family’s safety.

“We all decided to do it out of concern for going back to in-person school



Sacaton Elementary School District student, Joe Carpio receives a COVID-19 vaccination at Sacaton Elementary School on Jan. 5. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

and for our safety, with everything being hectic out there,” said Cooper, whose children go to Sacaton Middle School.

Cooper said her family

talked over getting the vaccine and the potential stigma surrounding the issue, but ultimately chose to get the shot.

“We didn’t know what

the reaction was going to be,” said Cooper, “but we decided it was okay to get vaccinated and everyone was fine with it.”

Gila River Sand & Gravel Corp. Breaks Ground on San Tan Facility Expansion

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Sand & Gravel Corp. (GRSG) broke ground in mid-December on the expansion of their San Tan location with a two-phase planned development that will include a new 8,500 square foot office building plus a new fleet shop and construction department.

The site’s existing office building will be connected to the new building by a “landscaped walkway” that will include material on display for GRIC members to view, touch and order for their personal use, according to Robert Mendez, Construction Manager for GRSG.

Mendez, who has been working with the Community for 10 years, designed and

planned the phased project, which leaves open the possibility of “future buildout as the Fleet and Construction departments grow to better serve the Community.”

The first phase of the project will incorporate paved driveways, covered parking, lighting, fencing and landscaping to surround the area. Phase two of the development will include a new 3,500 square foot, two-story fleet shop, with two large bays for mechanics and maintenance. The building will provide administrative offices and a conference room.

The second phase of the project will also include a fuel station and a parking lot for the commercial vehicles. The new buildings will accommodate GRSG’s



Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Directors Darin White COO, Duane James Director, Donnie Antone Vice-Chairman, Michael Morago CEO, Karin Jackson Director, Gordon Domingo Director were on-site for the groundbreaking on Dec. 17. Emma Hughes/GRIN

growing fleet and construction department. This includes a 2-ton crane to operate within the maintenance area’s 21-

foot tall space. Mendez said GRSG is working to establish a Construction Division geared towards building

residential projects within the Community.

“This development is going to be like our hub for the

Marana plant and we’re going to get the Blackwater plant going too,” said Mendez.



STAY SAFE & STAY HEALTHY



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Komatke Health Center (520) 550-6000 Ext. 6060
Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center (520) 796-2600 Ext. 2697
Ak-Chin Clinic (520) 568-3881

Dose 1, 2 & 3 Eligibility:

GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, all federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential employees and their household members, and community enterprise employees and their household members. All individuals 5 years and older. Parent or guardian consent is required.

Additional Dose 3 Eligibility:

If you received PFIZER OR MODERNA

- You are eligible for a booster if you are:
16 years of age or older (PFIZER)
18 years of age or older (MODERNA)
When can you get it:
Six (6) months after your second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna

If you received JOHNSON & JOHNSON

- You are eligible for a booster* if you are:
18 years of age or older
When can you get it:
Two (2) months after your first shot
* Pfizer or Moderna only

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT OMICRON FAQ : Infection And Spread

How easily does Omicron spread?

At this time, it is not known how easily Omicron will spread compared to Delta COVID-19 variant. Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Omicron variant likely will spread more easily than the original COVID-19 virus strain.

Will Omicron cause more severe illness?

More data are needed to know if Omicron COVID-19 infections (especially reinfections and breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated) cause more severe illness or death than infection with other variants like Delta.

Will vaccines work against Omicron?

With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.

I've been vaccinated, can I still catch the Omicron variant?

Current COVID-19 vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. Breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated can occur with all covid variants.

Will treatments work against Omicron?

Scientists are working to determine how well existing treatments for COVID-19 work will against this new variant. Based on the changed genetic make-up of Omicron, some treatments are likely to remain effective while others may be less effective.

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

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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • December 15, 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, December 15, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:02 a.m.

INVOCATION
 Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone

ROLL CALL
 Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll
 Executive Officers Present:
 Lt. Governor Monica Antone
 Council Members Present:
 D1- Joey Whitman (9:20), Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa (9:08), Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird (9:39)

Council Members Absent:
 Governor Stephen R. Lewis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORTS #3, #6, #10, #15, AND #19
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #2, #4, #5, #7 THROUGH #9, #11 THROUGH #14, #17, #18, AND #20 THROUGH #32; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #4; ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #5
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED
PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS
 >1. Communications & Public Affairs Office FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Roberto A. Jackson
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >2. Department of Community Housing FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Derwin Cooper
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >3. Facility Maintenance Department FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Jay Kobayashi
 TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >4. Akimel O'Odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council FY 2021 Annual Report
 Presenter: Michael Preston
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >5. Management Information Systems FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Chris R. Cabanillas
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >6. Department of Transportation FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Sreedevi Manthra
 TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >7. Department of Public Works FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Jesus Haro
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >8. FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) Human Resources Department
 Presenter: Margarita Valdez
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >9. FY 2021 Annual Report Tribal Projects Development
 Presenter: Howard Reno
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >10. Tribal Health Department FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Candalerian Preston
 TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >11. FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021) Department of Housing Development
 Presenter: Wayne M. Allison
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >12. Fourth Quarter Report for Four Rivers Indian

Legal Services
 Presenter: Diana Lopez-Jones
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >13. Veteran & Family Services Office FY 2021 Annual Report (October 01, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Eric White
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >14. Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning - FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Kimberly Antone
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >15. GRHC FY21 Tobacco Tax Grant Annual Report – October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021
 Presenters: Board of Directors, Deborah Tinsley, Dr. Anthony Santiago, Dr. Viji Murugavel, Carolyn Thompson, Susan Kelley, Judith Roth, Priscilla Foote, Max Haake
 TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 16. COVID-19 Update
 Presenters: COVID-19 Taskforce
REPORT HEARD
 {LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTONE CALLED FOR A 10 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 10:53 A.M.}
 >17. Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision- FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Ron Lopez
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >18. Office of the Prosecutor's FY21 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenters: Michael L. Voyles, Carleton Giff, David Williams
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >19. Defense Services Office FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenters: Claude Jackson, Tracy Peacock
 TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >20. Gila River Police Department-FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Timothy G. Chavez
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 21. Judicial Department-FY2021-Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Anthony Hill
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >22. Tribal Education Department, Administration- FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Isaac Salcido
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >23. Tribal Education Department, Head Start Program- FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Carolina Kelley
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >24. K-12 Education Department, Quarter 1 Manager's Report For School Year 2021-2022
 Presenter: Jeffery Thornburg, Lance Reyna
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >25. Tribal Education Department, Early Education Child Care- FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Joann Fields
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >26. Tribal Education Department, Child Development and Education Support Services-FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Joann Fields
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >27. Tribal Education Department, Culture and Language Program- FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Anthony Gray
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >28. Tribal Education Department, Student Services- FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Isaac Salcido, William Tewawina
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >29. GRTI 3rd Quarter Report

Presenters: Board of Directors, Jim Meyers, Jennifer Burkhalter
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >30. Tribal Historic Preservation Office FY2021 Annual Report
 Presenters: Barnaby V. Lewis, Larry Benallie Jr., Reylynne Williams, Raquel Romero
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >31. Huhugam Heritage Center FY 2021 Annual Report
 Presenter: Shirley Jackson
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >32. Cultural Resource Management Program FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
 Presenter: Kyle Woodson
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS
 >1. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-313-15 And Disestablishing The Gila River Farms Task Force (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and EDSC concur)
 Presenter: Bartley Harris
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >2. A Resolution Approving Tribal Education Allocation Funds For Schools Located Within The Gila River Indian Community Reservation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; ESC concurs)
 Presenter: Jeffery Thornburg
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >3. A Resolution Amending Approved Resolution GR-055-20, Authorizing The Human Resources Department To Utilize The Arizona Department Of Public Safety's Noncriminal Justice Compliance Program For Fee-Based State And Federal Criminal History Checks For Employment Applicants (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
 Presenter: Margarita Valdez, Michelle Barber
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >4. A Resolution Approving The Write-Off Of Thirty-Nine Accounts Between The Years Of 2006-2020 Due To Delinquent Amounts That Are Uncollectable (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
 Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Gary Mix
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
 1. Gila River Farms Notice of Propane and Propane Setup Increase (G&MSC forwards to Council as FYI)
 Presenters: Stephanie Saucedo- Manuel, Kimberly K. Fisher, GRF Board
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
 2. Gila River Farms FY 22 Initial Budget (G&MSC forwards to Council for discussion)
 Presenters: Stephanie Saucedo- Manuel, Kimberly K. Fisher, GRF Board
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
 3. Gila River Telecommunications Board of Director Compensation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval, EDSC concurs)
 Presenters: Board of Directors
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
 4. Special Election for Associate Judge Position (Pursuant to Article IX; section 2 of the GRIC Constitution, LSC motions to forward to Council and declare the Associate Judge position vacant as of March 4, 2022, and to hold a special election for the vacant judge position on May 3, 2022 concurrent with the Council election and to approve the Elections program schedule as attached with the recommended changes)

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7

Presenter: Nadine Shelde

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE ASSOCIATE JUDGE POSITION VACANT AS OF MARCH 4, 2022 AND HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE VACANT JUDGE POSITION ON MAY 3, 2022 CONCURRENT WITH THE COUNCIL ELECTION AND APPROVE THE ELECTION SCHEDULE WITH RECOMMENDED CHANGES

>5. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Lillian Kim Franklin

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA MINUTES ANNOUNCEMENTS

~CRIME TASK FORCE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021 HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED

~CEOT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.

~CASA BLANCA SCHOOL OWNERS TEAM MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:30 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Gila River Saturday Morning Bike Rides

**10:00 AM Every Saturday Morning
Beginning New Year's Day 1/1/2022**

3-5 Mile Slow Rides

Tribal Health Department has limited the number of riders to 15

Meet at Governance Center in Sacaton at 9:45am for Air, Brake, and Chain (ABC) checks

Ride Starts at 10:00am

Bring a mask, a helmet and water.

Mask Up, Masks are required for this event and please physically distance before, during and after the ride.

Raffle for bike related items: Bike tubes, patch kits, etc.

Questions call or text Elisha Bishop at (520) 858-2774

****NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
COMMUNICATION SITE LEASE AT STATE ROAD 347**

Press Release

Office of General Council

The Natural Resource Standing Committee ("NRSC") will be considering the Environmental Assessment Form from the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. regarding a communication site lease on approximately 0.040 acres of land at State Road 347 near the entrance to the Gila River Sand and Gravel

Maricopa Plant in District 6 of the Gila River Indian Reservation at their regular meeting on December 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx Meeting Platform. A copy of the Environmental Assessment Form in its entirety is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary's Office.

If you are interested in providing comments to the Environmental

Assessment Form, please attend the scheduled NRSC meeting. You may also contact your Council representative or the NRSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720. Written comments may be emailed to Casaundra Wallace at casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn.us or mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Casaundra Wallace.

Anonymous Submission

Through the storms of life, through the shadows of unending tribulations, to who you are in life, to the possibilities, to new found life.

On behalf of the Rivers Family I want to thank you all for those

who made it to the wakes & funerals of the Rivers Family, Patricia (Mom) Sherlyn (Sis) Larson (Bro)

From afar and near, as far as the North to the South, from East to the West, from as high up above, we too will be Heaven bound

God heard your testimonies, saw your comings and those who didn't attend, God knows your heart

Special blessings to the men & women doing time. Whose prayers of comforting thoughts are always felt and heard.

Prayers go up and blessings come down

A brother & sister in Christ Mr. & Mrs. Delson Rivers Sr.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

***NOTICE*
2022 Agricultural Lease Payment**

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

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

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

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

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

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



GILA RIVER FARMS

212 N. Old Hwy 93
P.O. Box 397 • Sacaton, Arizona 85147
Office: (520) 315-3965 • Fax: (520) 315-3775

December 30, 2021

Dear Valued Customer,

Due to the past and current rising costs of propane, the Gila River Farms (GRF) has steadily been absorbing these increases for the past 10 years. With propane gas fluctuating between 15% - 20% daily with no end in sight, the GRF must increase their propane prices for all customers.

Beginning February 1, 2022, the increases on the attached pricing sheet will become effective. All propane orders placed before February 1, 2022, will be honored at the current pricing.

Please contact Gary Allison, Propane Manager at 520-509-5678 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Saucedo-Manuel,
General Manager

GILA RIVER PROPANE

Gallon price totals

The minimum for delivery is \$162.00
Effective February 1, 2022

Gallons	X	Price Per Gallon	= Total
54g		\$3.00	\$162.00
60g		\$3.00	\$180.00
76g		\$2.90	\$220.40
80g		\$2.90	\$232.00
83.33g + .1		\$2.90	\$241.95
90g		\$2.90	\$261.00
93.75g		\$2.90	\$271.88
100g		\$2.80	\$280.00
108.69g + .1		\$2.80	\$304.61
130.43g + .1		\$2.80	\$365.48
152.17g + .1		\$2.80	\$426.39



**Casa Blanca Community School's
Vaccination INCENTIVE Event**

5297 W. Nelson Rd. Bapchule, AZ 85121
520-315-3489

Come to the school campus to pick up your scooter and helmet!

ELIGIBILITY
• Current enrolled CBCS student
• Fully vaccinated for Covid-19 (Vaccine card required)

Scooter and Helmet Pickup
Fridays
Jan 14 9am-3pm
Jan 21 9am-3pm
Jan 28 9am-3pm





COVID-19 VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

FOR MINORS (AGES 5-17)

Community Council approved a Vaccination Incentive program for Gila River Indian Community minors; ages five (5) through seventeen (17) who have become fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

The incentive will be for \$500 and is an effort to help protect children ages 5 years and older from getting COVID-19. The application deadline is April 29, 2022. The completed application must be postmarked or received by the GRIC Per Capita Office by this date.

Payments will be made once the application is received and verified by the Per Capita Office. For additional inquiries contact the GRIC Per Capita Office at (520) 562-5222, toll free at (866) 416-2618 or by email at gricminorvaccineincentives@gric.nsn.us

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



@GRICNEWS



Gila River Indian Community

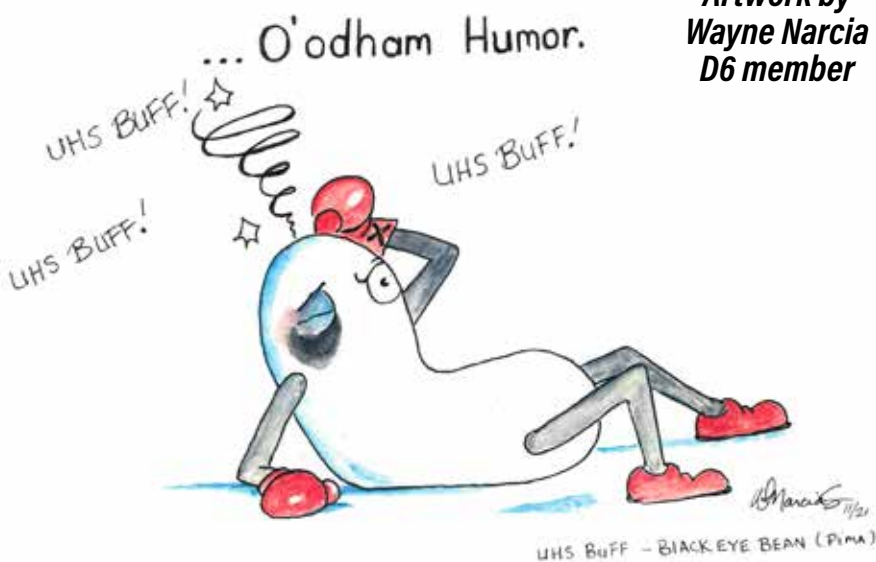
2022 SPECIAL ASSOCIATE JUDGE ELECTION SCHEDULE

Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

DATE	EVENT
<small>Article IX, Vacancies, Section 4. Should a vacancy exist from any cause in the office of Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge, Associate Judge or Councilman, a successor shall be elected at a special election called by the Council within sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs. December 15, 2021: A declaration of vacancy for an Associate Judge position effective March 4, 2022 and to hold a special election to fill the vacant Associate Judge position on May 3, 2022, concurrent with the Council election.</small>	
MARCH 4, 7 & 8, 2022	Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) period for position of the Associate Judge; declaration forms available at the Tribal Elections Office only or request at: TEP@gric.nsn.us
MARCH 9, 2022	Route Declaration forms to Enrollment, Law Office and Human Resources to determine qualifications of candidates
MARCH 10, 2022	Declaration forms to return to the Tribal Elections office.
MARCH 10, 2022	Election Board to verify residency qualifications of each candidate.
MARCH 16, 2022	Community Council to certify the candidates' qualifications for Associate Judge position.
MARCH 23, 2022	VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES for the Special Associate Judge Election
APRIL 1, 2022	ABSENTEE VOTING opens for registered voters unable to vote in person at a polling site.
MAY 3, 2022	Special Associate Judge Election (Districts 1 -7)
MAY 6, 2022	Protest period ends for the Special Associate Judge election. Protests must be in writing, submitted to the Election Board Chairperson before 5:00 p.m.
MAY 18, 2022	Community Council to certify the election results of the special election.
JUNE 1, 2022	Newly elected Associate Judge to be sworn into office.

For inquiries regarding this schedule, please contact the Tribal Elections office @ (520) 562-9735

Artwork by Wayne Narcia D6 member



Public Notice: Application for Federal Financial Assistance

Contact: Dawn M. Coomer, (520) 562-6306 (office), dawn.coomer@gric.nsn.us

January 7, 2022

Public notice is hereby made that Gila River Indian Community is applying for federal financial assistance to provide public transportation service in all seven districts. Service is deviated fixed-route and operates weekdays, excluding holidays, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Gila River Transit operates four routes. The Sacaton Shuttle and West End Shuttle have operated since early 2016. The Sacaton Shuttle serves District 3 and the West End Shuttle serves Districts 6 and 7. Two additional shuttles were introduced in April 2019. The East Side Shuttle serves Districts 1, 2 and 3, and the Central Shuttle serves Districts 3, 4 and 5.

Public notice is further made that Gila River Indian Community is also applying for federal financial assistance to purchase a transit vehicle to provide public transportation services for the general public. Currently the East Side Shuttle runs two days per week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Central Shuttle runs three days per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We hope to run service five days a week on these shuttles in fall 2023 with funding obtained from the grant application.

The transportation service will be available to the general public during all hours of operation. The project is expected to be financed by FTA Section 5311 Rural Program public transportation funds, with additional funds to be provided from Gila River Indian Community tribal funds. The total federal share of operating and capital projects is expected to be approximately \$1.1 million.

Gila River Indian Community ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided with regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) of 1990 and

GILA RIVER TRANSIT
(520) 562-6020 | GILARIVERTRANSIT.COM

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information regarding our Title VI/ADA obligations or to file a complaint, please contact Ms. Coomer at the address below.

Comments on the grant application are invited from the general public, private bus and taxi companies, other public transportation providers and human service agencies. **Interested parties may comment or obtain more details by writing to: Dawn M. Coomer, Transportation Manager, Gila River Indian Community, Transportation Department, PO Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147.**

Comments are also taken by sending email to dawn.coomer@gric.nsn.us or calling Ms. Coomer at (520) 562-6306.

Human service agencies that receive assistance from other federal agencies for non-emergency transportation services are encouraged to participate and coordinate with Gila River Transit in the planning, design and delivery of transportation services. Agencies may obtain copies of the service description and submit proposals for service coordination. Private bus and taxi operators may request copies of the project service description from the above named person and may submit comments on the service as described.

If you wish to comment on any aspect of the proposed project, submit a proposal, request service coordination, or request a public hearing on this project, you must make your interest known in writing 15 calendar days of the date of this publication and provide your comments within 15 calendar days of your receipt of the project service description. Your requests and/or comments must be sent to Ms. Coomer at the contact information above.



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs



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15th & 20th



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Until
March 2022**

2018 Ford Focus



\$249/mo.

2016 Chevy Equinox



\$299/mo.

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2017 Dodge Charger



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2018 Dodge Caravan



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Only 5,000 Miles

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Divorce
Foreclosure
OK**

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**ZERO
DOWN**

2014 Ram 1500



Great Truck

2013 Dodge Durango



Huge Savings

2015 Jeep Wrangler



RUBICON

2016 Cadillac SRX



Luxury and Style

2019 Kia Forte LXS



Low Miles
Low Payments

2018 Toyota Tacoma



Don't Miss Out!

**\$2,000
MINIMUM
TRADE-IN**

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Full synthetic oil additional cost
*specialty vehicles excluded

\$29.95

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\$159.95 SPECIAL

Valid Monday-Saturday 1/3/22-1/31/22. Included machining brake rotors. Specialty and heavy-duty vehicles excluded. 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

PREMIER MITSUBISHI

Alignment

\$69.95 SPECIAL

*some vehicles may be additional cost
*excluded specialty vehicles
*adjustments in addition to factory parts are extra cost

Valid Monday-Saturday 1/3/22-1/31/22. 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

For more details contact
520-800-1084 or visit
www.premiermitsubishi.com/service/

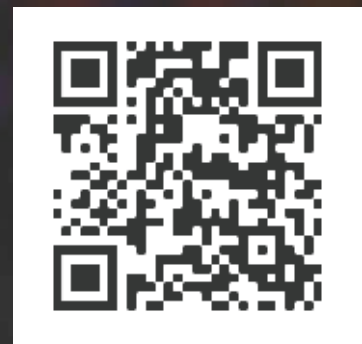
1648 N Pinal Ave
Casa Grande, AZ 85122



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



Hiring Event

January 11, 2022
9AM-3PM

Shelde Building

5710 W North Loop Rd
Chandler, AZ 85226

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