



P-MIP Breaks Ground on Canal 14 in District 5

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On the morning of Monday May 23, a groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 1 of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project's Canal 14 was held in District 5. This project will upgrade existing infrastructure utilizing funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed in 2021. GRIC leadership, P-MIP staff, and members of the Hunter Contracting company attended the ceremony.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is producing an immediate and positive impact in the Gila River Indian Community as the Community seeks to restore its agricultural heritage and economy," said Governor Stephen Roe Lewis. He added, "These improvements to Canal 14 are creating jobs and expanding capacity while also conserving water resources by modernizing a century-old irrigation system and transforming it into a modern state-of-the-art system."

Gov. Lewis attributed the project's success from BIL pass-

ing to the many Arizona congressional delegates who championed the BIL. Gov. Lewis said, "I want to thank our congressional delegation, especially Senators Kelly and Sinema, and Representatives O'Halleran, Gallego, and Stan-

ton for their hard work in passing the BIL and then in ensuring that these funds were made available in Arizona quickly to help us continue this vital work."

The Canal 14 project will replace nearly three miles of the

existing canal with an improved delivery system. It is located south of Casa Blanca Road on Snakehill Road in District 5. These improvements are expected to support local growers in the area and conserve approximately

1,425 acre-feet of water annually.

This project is one of five BIL projects the Community designated for the funds. With construction beginning on May 23, the significant aspects of the project are expected to be completed this fall, near Thanksgiving. The project will employ up to 50 skilled and semiskilled workers.

"History is being made here. This is going to be a great thing for everyone, there are about 6 or 7 farmers along this line, and it will better serve them all," said District 5 Community Council Representative Brian E. Davis Sr. He recalled the current canal channel being in place for nearly 70 years and welcomed the upgrades as "a long time coming."

P-MIP Project Director David DeJong anticipates all five BIL project's completion in the near future. "I want to thank Governor Stephen Roe Lewis for your tremendous leadership. The water settlement began with your father, and you are now providing the leadership for the next generation of the P-MIP system," said DeJong at the closing of the event.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, District 5 Community Council Rep. Brian E. Davis, Sr., members of Hunter Contracting Co., and P-MIP Project Director David DeJong break ground for Canal 14 in District 5 on May 23. Kyle Knox/GRIN

GRIC Assists in Development of Land Acknowledgement Statement for Heard Museum

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The Heard Museum recently installed a land acknowledgement statement honoring the ancestral lands of the Akimel O'otham. These acknowledgements are primarily used in the Americas, Australia, and New Zealand to honor the land's original stewards and their tenure.

On May 2, the land acknowledgement statement was installed in the museum's permanent exhibition titled Home: Native People in the Southwest, which highlights the rich culture and history of the Southwestern tribes. The statement is near the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh display.

"I'm very proud of the Heard Museum's Land Acknowledgement Statement," stated Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. "It encapsulates the history of this land and the inseparable connections [the] Akimel O'otham have to the State of Arizona."

He continued, "The Heard Museum houses many of our treasures as O'otham and Pee Posh, and this is a fitting dedication for all visitors to understand where exactly they are located."

In 2019, the Heard Museum's Program Committee began the process of developing a land acknowledgment.

"Our collaboration was very meaningful, and I hope every Community member will get a chance to visit the Heard Museum and read this powerful statement," said Gov. Lewis.

Committee member Dr. David Martinez (Akimel O'otham/Hia Ced O'odham/Mexican) is an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community and is a Professor of American Indian Studies at Arizona State Uni-

versity.

Dr. Martinez led a special sub-committee to further research, evaluate and draft a land acknowledgement for approval.

"Working on the Heard Museum's land acknowledgement statement was an immensely rewarding experience," Dr. Martinez said.

"While the process was not without its challenges, I was gratified to see the statement build a bridge between the museum and the Akimel O'otham, on whose ancestral land the museum has thrived since it opened in 1929. More importantly, visitors from all over the world will know that when they walk the Heard Museum's galleries that they are walking on the Akimel O'otham Jeved."

According to Heard Museum Director and CEO David M. Roche, several examples of land acknowledgments from other art museums and organizations both locally and nationally were

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The Heard Museum acknowledges that the land this institution has stood upon since 1929 is within the O'otham Jeved, which the Akimel O'otham have regarded as their homeland since time immemorial. Despite the land's annexation into New Spain, the Mexican Republic, and the United States, which assumed control after the 1854 Gadsden Purchase, the Akimel O'otham have consistently asserted that this land is theirs, as recounted in their Creation Story, in which Jeved Maska'i, Earth Doctor, made this place. Today the Akimel O'otham are part of the Four Southern Tribes of Arizona, which is a coalition comprised of the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The Heard Museum, in what is today downtown Phoenix, Arizona, occupies land within sight of numerous Huhugam, or Ancestral O'otham, canals, farmlands and villages, which is evidence of a presence going back countless generations, long before Father Eusebio Kino and the Conquistador Juan Mateo Mange arrived in the area on November 21, 1697, which harbingered a succession of colonization. Indeed, the founders of the Heard Museum, in particular, benefited from the US making Arizona a Territory in 1863, then a state in 1912, which led to the economic development of Phoenix, which became an election precinct in 1868. Consequently, the Heard acknowledges that it has a moral obligation to the Akimel O'otham, on whose land this museum continues to thrive. The latter is in addition to the Indigenous peoples, from within and well beyond Arizona, currently inhabiting the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area. With this in mind, the Heard proclaims that it remains dedicated to honoring its relationship with the Akimel O'otham through its programming, exhibits, public events, publications, and community service, which it extends to the other Indigenous peoples represented in its collections. The Heard hereby proudly commits itself to a future of building, improving, and nurturing its relationships with the Akimel O'otham and other Indigenous communities, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

- David Martinez, Ph.D. (Akimel O'otham/Hia Ced O'odham/Mexican)

The Heard Museum's Land Acknowledgement Statement is located near the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh displays in the permanent exhibit "Home: Native People in the Southwest." Photo Courtesy of The Heard Museum

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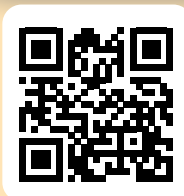
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6/14	District 2 Service Center	9 am - 3 pm
6/18	Hau'pal Health Center	10 am - 2 pm
6/20	District 1 Service Center	9 am - 3 pm
6/21	District 1 Service Center	9 am - 3 pm

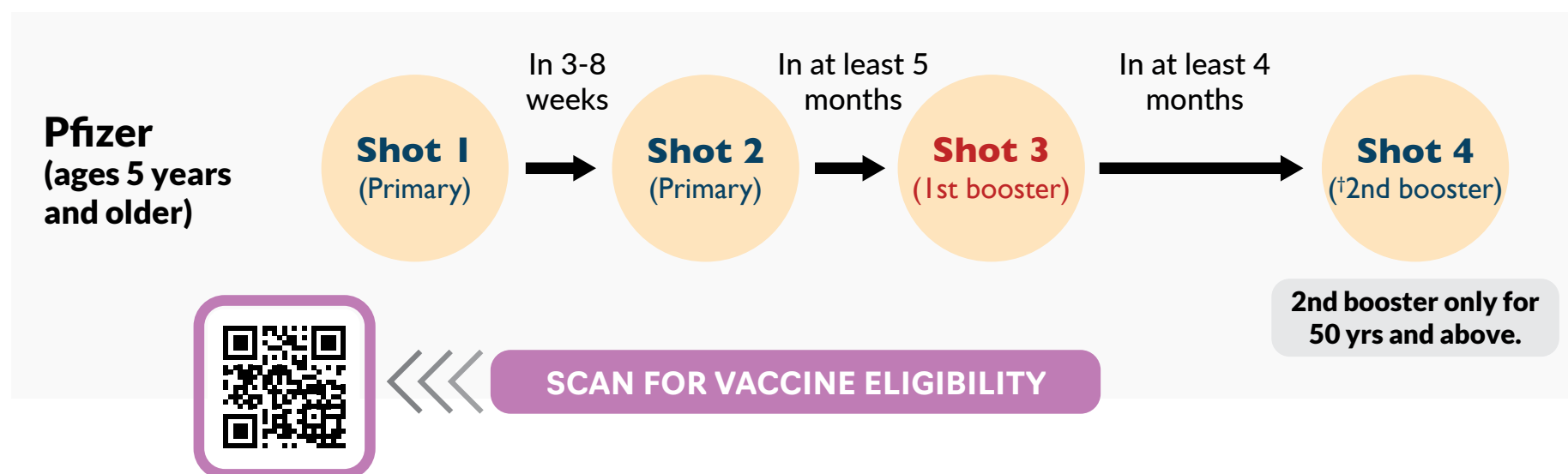


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Shannon White,
Community Council Secretary

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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reviewed to aid in the development.

Dr. Martinez then drafted a land acknowledgement and presented it for feedback to the Four Southern Tribes: Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

"Dr. Martinez was the perfect individual to craft this message [not only] as a respected scholar, but also as a member of the Gila River Indian Community," Gov. Lewis said.

After the tribes made revisions, GRIC Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Barnaby Lewis provided additional consultation on the statement. Then, with his approval, a final draft of the land acknowledgement statement was presented to the Program Committee and Museum Board of Trustees.

"The Heard is an art museum that seeks to honor Indigenous creative expression and culture through our exhibitions, publications, and programs. Respect and care for the land has been a source of inspiration for exhibitions like "Rain", and our upcoming exhibition "Substance of Stars", for which both Professor David Martinez and Barnaby Lewis are advisors." Roche stated, "It's important to note that many of the works within the Museum's collection, from basketry to pottery, are direct extensions of the land."

He continued, "I believe that the Land Acknowledgement will educate our visitors that the Heard Museum currently resides on the ancestral lands of the Akimel O'odham and will remind them that their rich culture of creative expression still endures. It is also a way to affirm our ongoing commitment to building and nurturing our relationships with Indigenous communities locally, nationally,



Dr. David Martínez, Professor of American Indian Studies at ASU helped develop the Heard Museum's Land Acknowledgment statement. Photo Courtesy of Arizona State University

and internationally."

The Heard Museum, located in downtown Phoenix, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday

through Sunday. Admission is free for Native Americans with tribal I.D. For more information, visit heard.org

Rep. Tom O'Halleran Presents Gila River Indian Community With \$915,000 Federal Award To Upgrade Roadway Signage, Protect Drivers, Community Members

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian News

SACATON, Ariz. - In an effort to improve traffic safety for members of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and Arizona drivers, the Community has received \$915,000 in Community Project Funding earmarked to upgrade and replace traffic signs in four districts on GRIC land. Rep. Tom O'Halleran visited the Community on the afternoon of Friday, May 20, 2022, to present the award to Governor Stephen Roe Lewis.

The Community maintains approximately 340 miles of U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs roads which serve GRIC members and travelers between Phoenix and Tucson and in the East Valley. While federal highway funding was utilized to replace and upgrade about \$200,000 in outdated or missing signage in three of the Community's seven districts, the



During a check presentation, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis accepted \$915,000 from Rep. Tom O'Halleran, on behalf of the Community on May 20. Kyle Knox/GRIN

signage project stalled for lack of funding.

The \$915,000 federal earmark

will allow for the completion of the signage safety project in Dis-

tricts 3,4,5, and 7, making travel

safer across the sprawling reservation.

"It is no exaggeration to say that this funding will decrease the number of motor vehicle accidents in the Community," said GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. "This funding will save lives. That's why this is critically important to the Community, our families and everyone who drives on Gila River lands."

Rep. O'Halleran said he anticipates additional collaboration with the Community on important projects.

"I was honored to visit the Gila River Indian Community today to talk with Governor Lewis and Community leaders and celebrate the \$915,000 community project funding I secured to improve traffic safety and signs in GRIC," the Congressman explained. "I'm looking forward to continued work together to improve tribal infrastructure and address long-overlooked needs."



Rep. Tom O'Halleran and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis discuss public safety concerns and need for improved road signage in the Community. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Arizona Diamondbacks Host Annual NARD Game

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On Sunday, May 28, the Arizona Diamondbacks hosted the team's annual Native American Recognition Day (NARD) game, attended by thousands of Native Americans from across the state. As in past years, the game recognized Arizona's tribal diversity and history throughout the day, including pregame events showcasing dancing from numerous tribes, a tribal royalty procession, and a parade of teams from the 22nd Annual Intertribal

Youth Baseball & Softball tournament.

"The Gila River Indian Community is humbled to be here celebrating the Native American Recognition Day game in honor of Indigenous tribes from all over Arizona today," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone. Lt. Gov. Antone was interviewed during the game for the Bally Sports television broadcast and shared the importance of this occasion.

Lt. Gov. Antone said, "Our culture and traditions and the ways we believe in healing make today spe-

cial as we all celebrate this day together amongst our people. It was beautiful to see our people dancing throughout the day and on the field before the game." She also shared that while many tribes give back via charitable donations, this game presented an opportunity for all tribes to "give back" by sharing Native culture with everyone in attendance.

Pregame performances included 100 performers from across the state, including the D7 Bird Singers and Hashan Kehk Traditional Dancers.

Miss Gila River First Attendant 2022-23 Gabrielle Garcia and Jr. Miss Gila River 2022-23 Eliana Rhodes were present for the tribal royalty procession, which was the largest gathering of royalty during their reign thus far. "It's very important to be here today to honor all the tribes from across the state. I'm very happy to be here and represent the Community," said Garcia.

"I was excited about this game, and I'm happy to be one of the many tribal royalties here today," said Jr. Miss Gila River

Eliana Rhodes, who added that she was pleased with the turnout of Native Americans in attendance to perform and watch the Diamondbacks take on the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Talking Stick Resort sponsored this year's NARD game. Martin Harvier, President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, threw out the first pitch. And Martha Ludlow Martinez (SRPMIC) sang the National Anthem in O'otham to start the game.

This year saw the return of the Intertribal

Youth Baseball & Softball Tournament. After a two-year hiatus, this year's competition drew 44 teams from Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Oklahoma. All teams took to the field for a short parade before the game started. A trophy presentation also took place for the championship teams in each division: NM Pack-Black (Single-A Baseball), AZ Hype (Double-A Baseball), Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ (Triple-A Baseball), and AZ Heat (Triple-A Softball).



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone with Bally Sports host Jody Jackson, sharing the importance of the NARD game and activities during a live broadcast. Kyle Knox/GRIN



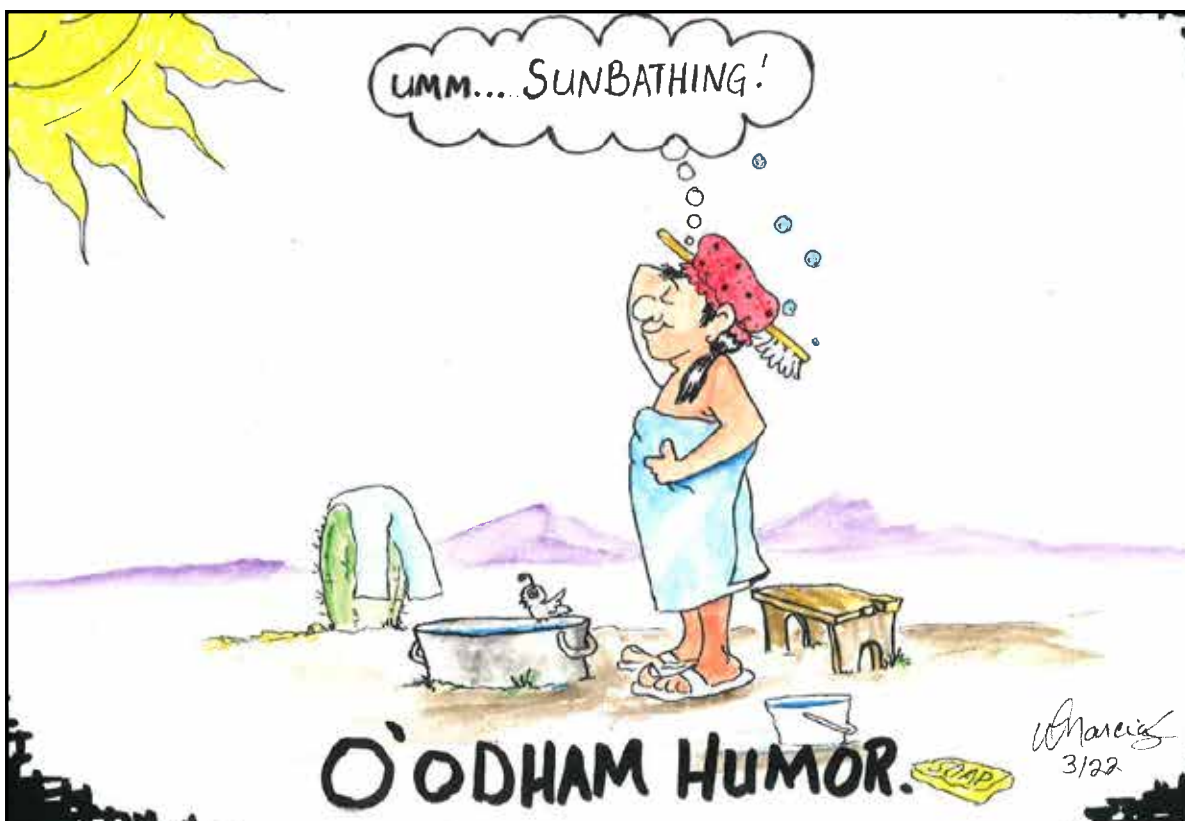
GRIC members Miss Indian Arizona 2021-22 Alyse Marrietta, District 3, Miss Indian Fairfax High School 2022-23 Candace Foulke, District 7, Jr. Miss Gila River 2022-23 Eliana Rhodes, District 3, and Miss Gila River 2022-23 First Attendant Gabrielle Garcia, District 3, prepare at the NARD game May 29. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Pee Posh Bird Singers, which feature members from across the state, were among the cultural performers danced on the upper concourse of Chase field prior to the game. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Intertribal Tournament Double-A Division champions AZ Hype, included GRIC youth, display their trophies during the pregame parade. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Gila River Indian Community

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A'AGA

Submitted by Billy Allen

Is it chumith, or chumuth, or chumath, or chemait, or cemait? Corn or flour? Whatever, I feel Chicano musician Lalo Guerrero's pain when he sang "I Love Tortillas" to the tune of "It's Now or Never" by "The King."

...There's no tortillas
There's only bread
There's no tortillas
And I feel so sad
My grief, I cannot hide
There's no tortillas for my refrieds...

We may not agree on the spelling, but one thing we agree on is we just want to eat them—and "the warmer the gooder." Corn tortillas ARE better for health reasons, but here / i:ya in our community, flour tortillas rule. How did this come to be? Has masma 'o ab chehg?

Grab a cemait, it's a long story, roots going back to the 1500s. In the Old World corn was a generic term for rice, wheat, or barley. Columbus entered a new world when he "discovered" India in the Caribbean. "Mahiz" (the indigenous Taino word for corn) was part of this new world. Not long after, when Spanish conquistadors destroyed Tenochtitlán (Mexico City) and other New World cities, they also started destroying indigenous food culture. Surprise! European words took over. The Spanish preferred wheat-based food and dismissed corn tortillas as "Indian food." Over in Europe, the Spanish word "tortilla" was basically an omelet—round and flat, cooked on a cast iron skillet. They did have a wheat flour cake called a "torta," and the

rest is history.

But more history—as the Spanish started converting indigenous New World people to Christianity, the Catholic Church mandated that sacramental bread, the Eucharist wafer or host, be made from only wheat. That led more indigenous people to move away from corn agriculture. Jews were also coming to the New World to escape the brutal Spanish Inquisition. One Jewish sect regarded corn as unacceptable to their faith, but wheat was permissible, so that also promoted wheat over corn.

In the Sonoran area of Mexico—historic O'otham territory—flour tortillas / cemait really took over. Today a lot of O'otham can't recall previous generations making corn cecmait. In Sonora, large tortillas, much larger than store-bought Lala's or Mission, are called sobaqueras, a slang term coming from sobaco—the armpit. Skilled tortilleras

made BIG cecmait that stretch from hand to armpit. Sobaquera also refers to a leather bag or holster. Maybe vaqueros / vapkial and missionaries carried tortillas in a leather bag.

Telling someone they "smell like village," might have been a putdown, but it was the smell of home. Cemait gently laid on a mesquite / kui fire heated comal / komal, aaahhhhh. Growing up, three generations of us would gather in the kitchen to play cards. Mom made game snacks by roasting old cemait as chips. She'd fry chiles, onions, and tomatoes—chips and dip. Homemade cheese crisps and so:ba were also part of her repertoire. So:ba is old, stale cemait, torn up and boiled in broth with onions and cheese added. It was hot, salty, and tasty, like many GRICsters. As a child, one cemait was enough with my meals, but as I grew, it took two or more. I also

remember eating meals sans spoon or fork. In skilled hands, cemait is a scooper, pusher, and dipped in si:tol or strawberry jam, dessert.

A relative likes to tell the story of a weekend family camping trip to Mount Lemmon / Babad Do'ag. The cool mountain air had the family hungry for breakfast. The chorizo was cooking when the blame game started. Who didn't pack the tortillas?! Hearing fellow campers speaking Spanish getting their breakfast started, our relative grabbed three leftover beverages went over to parley. Luckily that family totally understood "There's no tortillas--And I feel so sad," so breakfast was saved, as was the marriage.

Right now the Russian invasion of Ukraine is affecting the world's wheat supply and pushing grocery prices higher. Tasty mesquite-fired GRIC tortillas have been going for

\$8-10 a dozen. Will it go to \$1 for one cemait?

There's a California artist, Joe Bravo, who uses flour tortillas as canvas for his paintings. Some have sold for \$4000+! Some examples of his wide range: Lucha Libre, Marilyn Monroe, La Virgen de Guadalupe, Cheech Marin, Elvis. The King's music still reigns among some GRICsters. Maybe our tortilleras should make art with leftover cemait, not so:ba. Bravo could sell out a collection of Elvis cemait paintings on per cap day! A GRIC/Suns logo cemait?

References: Paula E. Morton's book, Tortillas, A Cultural History; the PhD thesis of Dr. Reuben Naranjo Jr. (Tohono O'odham) Hua A'aga: Basket Stories from the Field, the Tohono O'odham Community of A:L Pi'ichkin (Pitiquito), Sonora Mexico. An interview is available at borderlore.org.

Beat the Heat and Enjoy the New Topgolf Swing Suites

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

On Thursday, May 26, Gila River Resorts & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass opened the doors of their new indoor Topgolf Swing

Suite. This newest addition is the first of its kind in the state, located inside the Gila River Resorts & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass.

Topgolf Swing Suite Gila River features two

suites offering virtual golf, baseball, dodgeball, hockey, football, and more for indoor fun and entertainment.

"We're very excited to open up the Topgolf Swing Suite area," said Kenneth Manuel, Chief Executive Officer for Gila River Resorts & Casinos.

Guests can enjoy food and beverages, tabletop games, a broadcast booth for music and entertainment, HDTVs for live sports, and live table games, all within a lounge overlooking the casino floor.

Open to guests 21 years and up, the lounge is also available for private parties or corporate meetings to rent, with a maximum capacity of 200 people.

It's also capable of hosting events for sports betting. According to Manuel, sportsbooks have taken off for Gila River Resorts & Casinos, which now offers an additional area for our

guests to enjoy.

"It's an expansion of what we've been building on, an expansion on the events and excitement that we offer here at Wild Horse Pass," said Manuel.

The Topgolf Swing Suite Gila River is now open Thursday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Saturday & Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. And Monday through Wednesday, the suites are available for group rentals based on availability.



A look inside one of two private "swing suites" that features virtual golf, baseball, hockey, and more. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, District 4 Council Rep. Regina Antone and Gila River Resorts & Casinos CEO Kenneth Manuel during a soft opening for the Top Golf Swing Suites May 26. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority
SUMMER COLLEGE STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM 2022
The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for a full-time Summer College Student Intern.
The student will learn about the tasks and responsibilities of the people who provide electric service to the Community.
OPPORTUNITY:
Student will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
Pay will be \$12.80 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
Program for student will be developed based on his/her major course of study—for example, a Business or Accounting major will work primarily with staff in that area; an Engineering or technical major will work primarily in the Operations areas of GRICUA.
Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse & purchasing personnel, meter technician, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility.
REQUIREMENTS:
Student must be at least 16 years of age and currently enrolled as a full time student at an accredited college or university.
Student must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.
Student should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets; clear Arizona driver's license.
Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment, which can be found at <http://www.gricua.net/employment.html>.
Deadline for filing applications is OPEN UNTIL FILLED.
Student will be required to pass a drug screen and background check prior to employment.
Return applications via e-mail to GRICUAHR@GRICUA.NET; by fax to 520-796-0672 or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6636 W. Sundust Road, Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226.
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Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act. GRICUA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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- DROOLING
- MILD WEAKNESS
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- VOMITING
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- NEVER LEAVE YOUR PETS IN A PARKED CAR (NOT EVEN FOR A MINUTE)
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- DO NOT RELY ON A FAN, BECAUSE THEY DON'T COOL OFF PETS AS EFFECTIVELY AS THEY DO PEOPLE

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Gila Crossing Community School Holds First In-Person Promotion at New School

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On Wednesday, May 25, vehicles lined Pecos Road leading to Gila Crossing Community School (GCCS) for its eighth-grade promotion ceremony. The event was the first in-person ceremony held at the new school building since its completion in 2020. 47 students rode into the school to receive their certificates presented by the GCCS administration, board of

trustees, and Governor Stephen Roe Lewis.

GCCS Superintendent Jim Mosley said, "We're always excited for our promotions, so it's an exciting time tonight. Some of these students had a chance to return to the classroom this year, so there's an even greater air of excitement for tonight." Despite all that the eighth graders had to endure during the pandemic, Mosley was happy of the turnout and amount of support shown to the students. "I wish everyone

the best, and I hope next year everyone gets back in the classroom so we can do bigger and better things for them next year at Gila Crossing," said Mosley.

The ceremony was a drive-thru style to keep everyone safely distanced. However, families and supporters were allowed to attend by parking along Pecos Road and tune in to the ceremony remarks from the comfort of their vehicles.

"This is not the class of 2022 or the class of

2026. This should be the class of 2030 when you graduate from college... because here at Gila Crossing, we expect you all to go far in life," said Anthony Hill, GCCS Board President. "You'll all be here one day addressing the future GCCS graduating classes because you'll all be the future leaders in [my] place," said Hill.

"I'm so honored to be here today. You have one of the largest graduating classes here in the Community," said Gov. Lewis. "It's such a blessing to hold this safe kind of promotion tonight that will keep everyone safe thanks to the dedication of the school's teachers, principals, leadership, and board."

Gov. Lewis praised the school's proactive safety measures this year that allowed students to return to school. GCCS was the first school to allow students back in the classroom. In his closing, Gov. Lewis wished everyone a safe summer and the best to all the students as they proceeded to high school.

The class of 2022 valedictorian Rosalinda Lucero



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis congratulates Justin Davis and his family for completing eighth grade and promoting to high school. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Gila Crossing Community School valedictorian Rosalinda Lucero leads the parade of vehicles while families lined Pecos Road to cheer on their students at the drive-thru promotion May 25. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Eighth grader Joel Acunia rides in the back of a pickup truck during the Gila Crossing drive-thru ceremony May 25. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Good info is a good thing.

Get the best info about the Broadway Curve Improvement Project and upcoming summer road closures with "The Curve" app. Download to your phone today or visit i10BroadwayCurve.com and #StayAheadOfTheCurve. When complete, the project will improve your commute and help support our growing economy.

An eleven-mile stretch of Interstate 10 between Loop 202 and I-17.

- Existing Freeway
- 2 HOV Lanes +6 General Purpose Lanes +Auxiliary Lanes
- 1 HOV Lane +4 General Purpose Lanes +Auxiliary Lanes
- New Collector-Distributor Roads: EB 48th St to Baseline Rd WB Baseline Rd to SR143 & 40th St
- New Lanes on SR 143 & US 60 (to connect to I-10 improvements)
- New Pedestrian Bridges
- Improved Sun Circle Trail Connection

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • May 18, 2022

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, May 18, 2022, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:09 a.m.
INVOCATION
 Provided by Councilman Joey Whitman
ROLL CALL
 Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll
Executive Officers Present:
 Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Council Members Present:
 D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird
Executive Officers Absent:
 Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Absent:
 D5- Brian Davis, Sr.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #6 AND NEW BUSINESS #2
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 THROUGH #5, REPORTS #8 THROUGH #12; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1, #5 THROUGH #7 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED
PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
 1. Introduction – Assistant Community Manager, Mr. Michael Preston
 Presenters: Suzanne Jones, Michael Preston
 MS. SUZANNE JONES INTRODUCED MR. MICHAEL PRESTON AS THE NEW ASSISTANT COMMUNITY MANAGER. MS. JONES STATED THAT MR. PRESTON COMES TO THE COMMUNITY MANAGER'S OFFICE FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL AS THE COORDINATOR FOR 16 YEARS. MR. PRESTON CARRIES A BACHELOR'S DEGREE AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. MR. PRESTON HAS WORKED IN THE COMMUNITY IN DIFFERENT CAPACITIES AND IS VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT HE DOES. MR. PRESTON IS AN ENTREPRENEUR WORKING IN COFFEE AND CONSULTING. THROUGH THE YEARS OF WORKING WITH THE YOUTH COUNCIL HE HAS SHARED WITH THEM HIS TEACHINGS ON VARIOUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, HE HAS HOSTED WORKSHOPS PERTAINING TO BUDGETS, LEADERSHIP, AND ON THE CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS. MR. PRESTON WILL BE A GREAT ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY MANAGER'S OFFICE AND WILL INSTILL THE SAME KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO OUR DIRECTOR'S AS WE MOVE TO LEAD OUR COMMUNITY. MR. PRESTON IS EXCITED TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY MANAGER AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND THE TRIBAL COUNCIL. MR. PRESTON EXPANDED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE IN COLLABORATING WITH VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT HIS POSITION AS THE YOUTH COUNCIL COORDINATOR. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MR. PRESTON ON HIS NEW POSITION AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM.
 REPORTS
 >1. FY 2021 4th Quarter Pee-Posh Veterans Association Budget Report

Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >2. FY 2021 Final Pee-Posh Veterans Association Budget Report
 Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >3. FY 2022 1st Quarter Pee-Posh Veterans Association Budget Report
 Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >4. FY 2022 2nd Quarter Pee-Posh Veterans Association Budget Report
 Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >5. Community Technology Center FY2021/2022 2nd Quarter Report
 Presenter: Connie Jackson
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >6. Great Call Report Quarter 2
 Presenters: Jim Meyers, GRTI Board of Directors, Miane Men
 TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 7. COVID-19 Update
 Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force
 REPORT HEARD
 >8. Blackwater Community School Tribal Allocation 2nd Quarter Report for School Year 2021-2022
 Presenter: Jagdish Sharma
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >9. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Allocation 2nd Quarter Report for School Year 2021-2022
 Presenters: Bright Benson, Dr. Lynnette Michalski
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >10. Sacaton Elementary School Tribal Allocation 2nd Quarter Report for School Year 2021-2022
 Presenter: Stephanie Celis
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >11. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation 2nd Quarter Report for School Year 2021-2022
 Presenter: Kim Franklin
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >12. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Allocation 2nd Quarter Report for School Year 2021-2022
 Presenter: Jim Mosley
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 13. FY22 Monthly Financial Activity Report ending April 30, 2022 (Executive Session) Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
 REPORT ACCEPTED
RESOLUTIONS
 >1. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The Agreement (C7017) Between The Gila River Indian Community And Rothstein Law Firm For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 2. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 51 To The Gila River Indian Community Capital Projects Fund Budget For Fiscal Years 2022 Through 2026 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with amendments and corrected material)
 Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
 APPROVED
 3. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-25-16, Resolution GR-26-18, And Resolution GR-202-21, And Approving The Amended Plan Of Operation For The Gila River Indian Irrigation And Drainage District (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
 Presenter: Casandra Wallace

APPROVED
 4. A Resolution Rescinding Resolutions GR-122-08, GR-271-14, GR-041-19 And GR-105-20, And Directing The Chairperson Of The Natural Resources Standing Committee To Designate Three Members Of The Natural Resources Standing Committee To Represent The Gila River Indian Community On The Joint Control Board (NRSC forwards to Council under Resolutions)
 Presenter: Casandra Wallace
APPROVED
 >5. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Taylor Andrew Wilson Creighton Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
 Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >6. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Paul Derrick Vavages Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
 Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >7. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Shana Marie McGee Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement under the consent agenda)
 Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela
 ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
 1. Gila River Farms Board of Director's Declaration of Vacancy – (2) Seats (G&MSC forwards to Council to declare (2) Council Seat Vacancies)
 Presenter: Jennifer Allison
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL TO SUBMIT LETTERS OF INTEREST BY MAY 26, 2022 BEFORE NOON
 2. BGGRIC Reopening Plan for 2022 (G&MSC forwards to H&SSC for their review and approval prior to being forwarded to Council; HSSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Jason Jones Mark Clavell, Anita Leon
 TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 3. Certification of Gila River Indian Community 2022 Community Council

Election and Special Associate Judge Election Results for Districts 1-7 (LSC forwards to Community Council to certify the election results for: District 2 – Ann M. Lucas, District 3 – Avery White, District 4 – Nada Celaya, District 5 – Brian E. Davis, Sr., District 6 – Charles W. Goldtooth, District 7 – Devin Redbird) (LSC forwards to Community Council the Special Associate Judge election results and to certify Brianna L. Rhodes)
 Presenters: Nadine Shelde, Celia James
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT 2 AND CERTIFY ANN M. LUCAS
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT 3 AND CERTIFY AVERY WHITE
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT 4 AND CERTIFY NADA CELAYA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT 5 AND CERTIFY BRIAN E. DAVIS, SR.
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT 6 AND CERTIFY CHARLES W. GOLDTOOTH
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT 7 AND CERTIFY DEVIN REDBIRD
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE SPECIAL ASSOCIATE JUDGE ELECTION RESULTS AND CERTIFY BRIANNA L. RHODES
 4. FY2022 Gaming Internal Audit 2nd Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)
 Presenter: Dena Thomas
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT NEW BUSINESS #4 AND #5
 5. FY2022 Revenue Internal Audit 2nd Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)
 Presenter: Dena Thomas
ACCEPTED AT NEW BUSINESS #4
MINUTES
ANNOUNCEMENTS
ADJOURNMENT
 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:40 P.M.
 * Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
 > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

COURT DATE NOTICE
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
 TO: ENRIQUE MARTINEZ
 IN THE MATTER OF DORIAN FRANCES STEVENS,
 Petitioner/Plaintiff vs. ENRIQUE MARTINEZ, Respon-
 dent/Defendant
 CASE Number: CV-2022-0111-RO
 CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING
 Please take notice that a(n) Restraining Order Hear-
 ing has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Com-
 munity Court.
 This matter has been scheduled at the place and time set forth below:
 Friday, June 10, 2022
 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM
 LODITHA KUD KI,
 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.
 GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River
 Indian Community in the State of Arizona.
 DATED this 23rd day of May, 2022

****NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT****
NEW LAND LEASE IN DISTRICT 5 FOR
ST. PETER'S MEMORIAL HALL
 The Natural Resource Standing Committee ("NRSC") will be considering the Environmental Assessment Form from the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Phoenix regarding a new land lease on approximately two (2) acres of land in District 5 of the Reservation at their regular meeting on June 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., located in Conference Room C of the Community Council Secretary's Office and via WebEx video conference. A copy of the Environmental Assessment Form 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 the Office of General Counsel at OGC. HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us or mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147.

Gila River Royalty Appearance Requests

If you would like to request an appearance from the Gila River Royalty, please email missgilariver@gric.nsn.us

Include a description of the event, date(s), location, duration of requested appearance, and any other special requests or financial needs.



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Sacaton Middle School Promotes 51 Students for the Class of 2022

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Over two days, Sacaton Middle School held its promotion ceremony for all 51 eighth grader students that will proceed to high school next year. The ceremony ushered three to four students into their gymnasium for a short ceremony that kept everyone safely distanced on May 25 and 26. The ceremonies al-

lowed families of each graduate to attend and cheer on their students as they crossed the stage and received their certificates and gifts from the school. "We want to say that we're so proud of you all here, the last two years have been difficult, but you all pressed on, stuck with it, and now you're all ready to move on to the next step in your education," said Bright Benson, Sacaton Middle

School Principal. "No matter what happens to you in the next steps in your education, your Community and your family need you to be a modern-day Brave. So go get your education, come back, and be of benefit to this Community because we need you," said Benson. "Congratulations to the class of 2022 from Sacaton Middle School, all the Braves and Bravettes,"

said Governor Stephen Roe Lewis during a pre-recorded message. "As Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, I'm so proud of all that you've been able to accomplish," Gov. Lewis encouraged everyone to continue their academic journeys or chosen career paths. "Your Community is behind you and wants you to succeed because you are the future leaders, and you are our future going forward. Best wishes to you all, and I look forward to great things for every single one of you," said Gov. Lewis

Former Jr. Miss Gila River 2020-22 Sineca Jackson also provided an address for the students. "I encourage every one of you to continue your academic journey, even after high school," said Jackson. "Don't ever let anyone tell you 'you can't reach your goals,' Through personal experience, I've dealt with that myself. Be proud of what you've accomplished this far. Go Braves!" Fighting back tears, Amare Pratt walked across the stage, received her cer-



A joyful Amare Pratt waves to her family and friends in the audience as she walked across the stage at the Sacaton Middle School promotion. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis delivers congratulatory remarks to the students promoting from eighth grade at Sacaton Middle School May 25. Kyle Knox/GRIN

tificate, and said, "I feel great. These are tears of joy, and I'm happy to have my friends and family here to support me." The school recognized Pratt during the ceremony as a recipient of the Brandon G. Enos scholarship award. Pratt will be attending Casa Grande Union High School next. Afterwards, she hopes to pursue her dreams of playing professional basketball with the Phoenix Mercury or she also considers becoming an architect in her future.

Kristen Barros, Behavior Interventionist at Sacaton Middle School, was happy to see the rotational in-person ceremonies happening for the students. "We've missed our students over the last two years, so it's amazing to see them and spend time with them. We're so proud of them and happy to watch them grow." Compared to last year's drive-thru ceremony, she said this year's promotion feels more personable for the students and families.

Blackwater Community School Holds Outdoor Promotion for Fifth Grade Class

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Fifth grade students from the Blackwater Community School (BWCS) advanced in academics during a promotions ceremony held on Wednesday, May 25. The promoting class of 2022 is the first to graduate from the school's new campus. The new campus finished construction last Fall and opened up for in-person learning in March for preschool to fifth-grade students. "I'm so glad to see parents, grandparents, and our students, of course, all getting together at one place, sitting face-to-face," said Jagdish (Jack) Sharma, Principle for Blackwater Community School. "I just want to thank the GRIC COVID Task Force, Governor's Office, and Community Council, otherwise, we could not have done it,"

Sharma said. For the promotion, BWCS maintained safety precautions. Students were allowed to bring up to three guests. All attendees underwent health checks for COVID-19 upon arriving for everyone's safety. Additional safety measures included hosting the ceremony in the school's new outdoor amphitheater for the event. "There's so much potential here, this school has such a history of high educational standards," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. He added, "Our education is in our schools, they are going to provide the education that our children need to peek, to be good students and to be able to grasp the education once they leave Blackwater Community School." Gov. Lewis, Lt. Governor Monica Antone, School Board President Gwendolyn

Paul, and Tribal Education Department's K-12 Education Manager Lance Reyna all provided remarks for the ceremony. Later, Principal Sharma and Assistant Principal Misty Lopez presented certificates to nearly 50 students promoted to middle school. Student Chaston Thomas recited the pledge of allegiance in O'otham. And later, he received the "Principal's Honor Roll" award for his outstanding academic achievements throughout the school year and during the pandemic. Lt. Gov. Monica Antone presented the award to Thomas, a recipient of the 2022 Chief Azul Scholar Award. Additional outstanding students included Michael Castro and Erin Johns, who received the "Student of the Year" award at the ceremony. "It was good to be around hajun (family) and

friends and watching the little ones take those steps into adulthood," said District 1 Council Representative Arzie Hogg, who attended the ceremony, "Prayers and well wishes to those graduates."



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone congratulates fifth grader Michael Castro, and "Student of the Year" as he received his certificate. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Fifth grade students promoting from Blackwater Community School received black BWCS stoles to wear for the ceremony on May 25. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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Casa Blanca Community School Holds 2nd Annual Promotion Parade

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Casa Blanca Community School celebrated its graduating students from preschool, kindergarten, and fifth grade with its second annual promotion parade on Wednesday, May 25.

Teachers and staff lined up along the school's new campus parking lot with music, decorated school bus and tents, and a balloon arch to cheer on the classes of 2022.

In total, three preschool, 48 kindergarten, and 42 fifth grade students promoted at CBCS this year.

"Last year was slow, but this year we went all out and decorated," said Dr. Raetava Godinez, CBCS Assistant Principal. "We really want our students to realize and let them know that we are proud of them."

Students and families arrived throughout the morning with their vehicles decorated for the celebration and proceeded through the parking lot while cheered on by teachers and staff. It was the first time seeing their teachers in person for some students.

The celebration drew many from the Community,

including Lt. Gov. Monica Antone. Waving on students and families, Lt. Gov. Antone cheered on the students as they drove off into summer vacation. She also thanked all the staff and teachers at CBCS for the tireless hours they gave to make the occasion special for the students and families.

"It's a great way for our teachers to send off our kids to the next step in their education," said FACE Parent Educator Catherine Jackson, "It's kind of exciting and emotional for a lot of us here today."



Lt. Governor Monica Antone (center) with CBCS staff (left to right) Angela Moreno, Viola Harrison, Farrah Secody, and Rudy the Roadrunner. Emma Hughes/GRIN



The 2nd annual drive-thru promotion parade was held in the parking lot of the school's new campus where teachers and staff cheered their students on. Emma Hughes/GRIN

**Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority
SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL INTERN PROGRAM 2022**
The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for Summer High School Interns to learn a little about how an electric utility operates.
The students will rotate through various departments at GRICUA, learning about the tasks and responsibilities of the people who provide electric service to the Community.
OPPORTUNITY:
Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
Pay will be \$12.80 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse supervisor, meter technician, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility.
REQUIREMENTS:
Students must be at least 16 years of age.
Student must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.
Students should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets.
Students must pass a drug screen and background check.
Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment which can be found at <http://www.gricua.net/employment.html>.
Deadline for filing applications is **OPEN UNTIL FILLED**.
Applications will be evaluated upon receipt and interviews may be scheduled before closing date.
Return applications via e-mail to GRICUAHR@GRICUA.NET; by fax to 520-796-0672 or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6636 W. Sundust Road, Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226.
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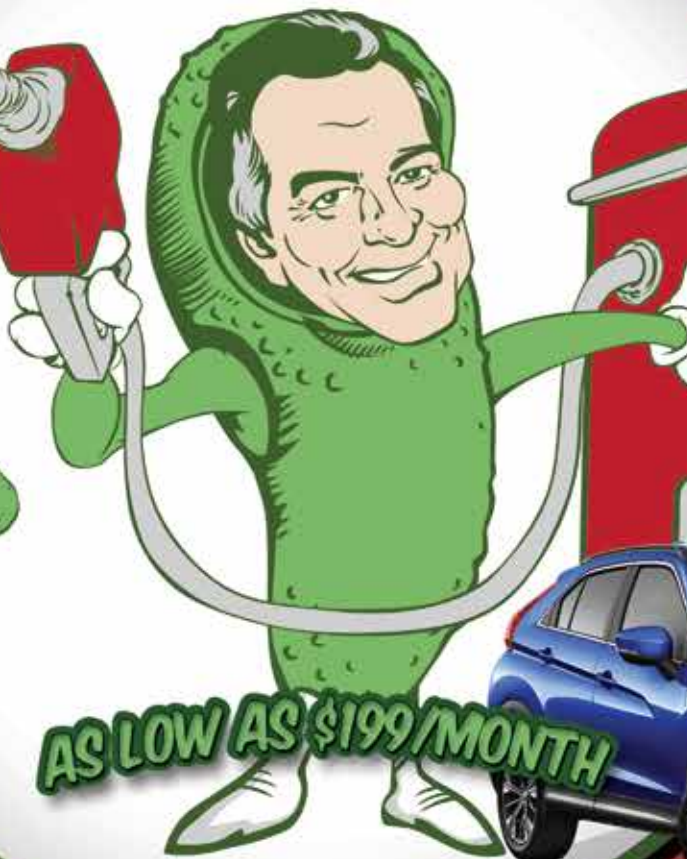
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