



GRIC Hosts Interior Secretary Haaland, Congressional Leaders For Water Conservation Tour, \$92 Million Allocation Announcement

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Community Council members welcomed U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Arizona Congressional delegation members to the Community on Feb. 22, for a visit that highlighted the importance of the Biden Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to tribal communities across the country.

The visit began with a tour of MAR-5 near Oldberg Dam, where the group discussed the Community's critical drought water conservation efforts. Gov. Lewis described MAR-5 as a site of great cultural significance and "a place that honors our past, sustains us in the present, and will leave a better future for generations to come." Secretary Haaland, the first Native American Cabinet Secretary, commended the Community for its leadership in water conservation efforts.

The group proceeded to the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project's Canal 13 in District 5, where they viewed work being performed as a result of Interior's allocation of funding from the BIL.

"I want to thank you, our Congressional delegation, for your strong and persistent advocacy to make sure tribal governments were included in the Infrastructure Law," said Gov. Lewis. "I thought it was important to bring you here today because this site demonstrates the acceleration of our Canal 13 – made possible because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law water settlement completion fund."

During the visit, Secretary Haaland announced that the Community will receive an allocation of \$92 million from the fund. The money will allow the Community to accelerate projects related to the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP), including the installation of up to 15 new wells, to allow the Community to conserve water to shore up Lake Mead during the current mega-drought. The projects will create about 200 jobs in the Community.



Secretary Deb Haaland visits the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5, met with Gila River Indian Community leadership and Community Council representatives. She was accompanied by Sen. Kelly, Rep. O'Halleran, Stanton, Gallego and Grijalva. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

In addition to the Secretary of the Interior, members of the Arizona Congressional delegation attended the site visits, including Sen. Mark Kelly and Reps. Tom O'Halleran, Ruben Gallego, Greg Stanton, and Raul Grijalva. Members of the Community Council attending the government-to-government meetings included Arzie Hogg, Joey Whitman, Carol Schurz, Rodney Jackson, Regina Smith, Delmar Jones, and Wahlean Riggs.

P-MIP Manager David DeJong received the delegation and spoke about P-MIP's projects in addition to the Canal 13 project.

"The infusion of funds that each of you was instrumental in making available to the Community under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is revolutionizing our construction program," said DeJong. "As importantly, advanced funding is allowing the Community to make more efficient use of its settlement waters earlier than otherwise anticipated and will save important dollars."

Both Gov. Lewis and DeJong expressed gratitude for the delegation championing the

More on Page 3



Secretary Haaland and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis hold a commemorative GRIC hard hat after touring the P-MIP Canal 13 construction site in District 5. Kyle Knox/GRIN

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Governor
Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Monica Antone

Community Council
Representatives

District 1
Arzie Hogg
Joey Whitman

District 2
Carol Schurz

District 3
Avery White
Rodney Jackson

District 4
Jennifer Allison
Regina Antone-Smith
Delmar Jones
Christopher Mendoza

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

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

District 7
Devin Redbird

Gary Mix, Tribal Treasurer
Shannon White,
Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

Roberto A. Jackson
roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us
CPAO Director
(520) 562-9719

Christopher Lomahquahu
christopher.lomahquahu@gric.nsn.us
GRIN Acting Managing Editor
(520) 562-9718

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

Kyle Knox
Kyle.Knox@gric.nsn.us
Community Newsperson
(520) 562-9717

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
www.gricnews.org

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From left, Senator Mark Kelly, Rep. Tom O'Halleran, Rep. Raul Grijalva, District 5 Council Representative Wahlean Riggs, Secretary Deb Haaland, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Rep. Greg Stanton, Rep. Ruben Gallego and U.S. Attorney Tanya Trujillo. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Haaland Visit Continued From Front Page

resources needed to complete all of P-MIP's projects sooner than anticipated. As part of Secretary Haaland's visit to Arizona, Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Antone participated in a tribal leader listening session hosted by the Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona and Gov. Lewis participated in water discussions with the Secretary to overview drought conditions along the Colorado River and ways to use the BIL to help address the crisis.

Gov. Lewis announced the Community's commitment to continued drought response efforts, including committing an additional 100,000 acre-feet of water to conservation in Lake Mead in 2023. This commitment will be in addition to the 125,000 acre-feet of water the Community is conserving to Lake Mead this year. The combined conservation efforts are expected to raise the elevation of Lake Mead by over 4 feet, providing a critical buffer against a possible deeper shortage declaration in 2023.

"The situation on the Colorado River continues to be dire and we must all continue our joint efforts to conserve more water in Lake Mead to avoid deeper cuts in the future," Gov. Lewis said. "The Community stands ready to continue working with its federal and state partners to help in any way we can."

At the conclusion of Gov. Lewis' remarks, he presented Secretary Haaland with a traditional basket. Gov. Lewis also presented the visiting dignitaries with a traditional shell necklace my by a GRIC artist.

After the tour of Canal 13, Gov. Lewis took Rep. O'Halleran on a tour of the Casa Blanca Community School, which was completed last year.



Secretary Haaland observes a Akimel O'otham basket dance performed by the Keli Akimel Hua Modk Cudkdam. (Below) Rep. O'Halleran is provided a tour of Casa Blanca Community School in District 5 by GRIC and school administrators. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Gov. Lewis addressing the progress of P-MIP's Canal 13 project with Rep. O'Halleran, Rep. Grijalva, Secretary Haaland, Rep. Stanton, and, Rep. Gallego. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Rio Reimagined, Metro Phoenix Urban Waters Federal Partnership



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during a roundtable discussion with Senator Kyrsten Sinema and Secretary Deb Haaland. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Secretary Deb Haaland and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis toured the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area at the Audubon Center in Phoenix. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Local leaders and stakeholders met Feb. 22 at the Rio Salado Audubon Center in Phoenix for a roundtable discussion on the Rio Reimagined Project, which helps protect, restore and revitalize more than 50 miles of the Salt and Gila Rivers.

Federal, state, local and tribal officials attended, including U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland,

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, Rep. Tom O'Halleran, Rep. Greg Stanton, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

Forged by the late Sen. John McCain in 2017, the Rio Reimagined Project has a long list of goals, according to the EPA's website, including restoring ecosystem functions, fostering climate adaptation and urban resilience, and more.

The 58 miles of rivers serve six cities and two

tribal communities in the valley: Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye, the Gila River Indian and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community.

The event also highlighted the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, which brings 15 federal agencies together to work collaboratively with communities and partners to connect with their waterways and environment to improve them.

Funding from the recent

bipartisan infrastructure and investments act, led by Sen. Sinema and shaped by Sen. Mark Kelly, will help tribes across the state.

"Our historic investments will strengthen water systems, update critical infrastructure, and create jobs," said Sinema.

Sinema helped secure the funding to complete all currently authorized Indian Water Rights Settlements, including building out the infrastructure needed for the Southern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement

with the Tohono O'odham Nation, completing GRIC's water rights settlements and funding the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Water Rights Settlement.

"The water funding in the bipartisan infrastructure funding is historic and will have an immediate impact in the Community by accelerating irrigation projects that will create around 200 jobs," said Gov. Lewis.

In addition to fully funding Indian Water Rights

Settlements, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs law provides \$3.5 billion for Tribal water and sanitation infrastructure and resiliency and \$2 billion to expand high-speed broadband in tribal communities.

Following the discussions, Audubon staff gave officials a tour of the Rio Salado habitat restoration area that provides a lush riparian corridor along five miles of the Salt River.

AOPPYC-Led Community Cleanup Bags 2,500 Gallons of Trash



District 1 youth stand ready before the Sat. Feb 19 cleanup including AOPPYC members Tizoc Ayala (second from left) and Thalia Ayala (center). Kyle Knox/GRIN

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Continuing its efforts to nurture environmental stewardship, the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council (AOPPYC) hosted a Community-wide cleanup event on Feb. 19 and 27. "Spread the Love" invited families and youth in almost every District to help clean and care for the land. The cleanup gathered more than 2,500 gallons of trash over two weekends.

On Feb. 19, cleanups were held in Districts 1, 4, 6 and 7, and on Feb 27, a cleanup was held in District 3. With the support of the AOPPYC advisors, every

site had cleaning supplies, PPE and health screening materials for everyone. Safety was vital, as every location was free from high-speed traffic.

"These events are important because we're taking care of our land now and for future generations to come," said Sineca Jackson, AOPPYC president. "I feel that more youth should be involved with these events because this land will be here long after we're gone, so taking care of it will create a cleaner and safer Community."

These events focused on cleaning the Community, but many found it rewarding and mentioned how these

initiatives help build character. Some also felt a deeper appreciation for the Community's lands and said it would discourage people from littering and dumping.

The District 7 cleanup brought out the Terrazas family to help clean and enjoy the cool morning weather. The family said events like this are helpful for the Community to create a healthier environment. They hope more cleanups occur with more youth involved so they can have productive interactions with each other, especially after COVID-19 restrictions loosen.

Seven members of Cesar Chavez High School's Native American Student Council assisted the cleanup in District 6. "Today was fun; we worked as a team, and I think it's a good thing for us all to come together for," said senior student Rochelle Delowe.

Before the pandemic, the AOPPYC held Community cleanups regularly. With Community guidelines allowing for safe in-person gatherings, the AOPPYC looks to plan more clean-up events with families.



Youth and family from District 4 and District 5 combined their efforts to clean around the District 4 Elderly Complex. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Members of the Cesar Chavez High School Native American Student Council assisted youth with the cleanup in District 6 along Pecos Road on Feb 19. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Local Leaders Discuss the State of Progress in Pinal County

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis participated in a panel discussion at the Apache Junction Multigenerational Center on Feb. 18 to discuss the state of progress in Pinal County. Leaders from Pinal County’s major governments, including the City of Apache Junction, Town of Superior, Pinal County Supervisor Jeff Serdyand Town of Queen Creek also participated.

“We are making great strides when it comes to economic progress,” said Gov. Lewis, adding that economic growth has become a priority in the Community, but it’s even more important in light of the Interstate 10 expansion.

Gov. Lewis said the Community is working with its stakeholders on this critical section of highway, adding that this piece of major infrastructure will benefit everyone, including neighboring cities and towns in Pinal County.

The leadership panel also discussed the return of public activities, housing



Gov. Lewis discusses the Community’s economic development and projects for infrastructure, during the Pinal County Leaders Meeting on Feb. 18. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

growth and the preservation of land, with all leaders agreeing careful planning is needed.

Regarding a return to activities, Gov. Lewis said, “We as a Community are beginning to look towards returning to in-person school. Our families and children are excited about it.”

One of the challenges faced by all governments and municipalities, Gov. Lewis noted, is the water

supply amid ongoing drought conditions. He added they have to work together in an innovative way to develop sound water plans that benefit everyone. “It affects all sectors, such as economic development, housing and farming, which is one of our lasting traditions,” he said.

City of Apache Junction Mayor Chip Wilson talked about managing the growth of a semi-rural municipality and how to meet the needs

of the community. “We are concerned about the water as well; we want to make sure the growth is manageable, including maintaining the beauty of the surrounding Superstition Mountains,” he said.

One of the challenges is the supply chain issues, said Superior Mayor Mila Besich. A water treatment plant is being delayed, and a fleet of new vehicles is being impacted due to supply chain issues with

the automakers, “so that puts added burden on maintenance on our current fleet,” she said.

Besich added other areas of development going on include a possible glider school at the airport and a more built-out water delivery system for the town of Superior, which grew from three square miles to 12 square miles.

“[The drought is] a concern for the whole state,” said Gail Barney, Mayor of

the Town of Queen Creek. “Working together is going to be crucial as we address this challenge together.”

He said the Queen Creek area is currently looking at bringing in large businesses, adding jobs to the area. “Pinal County is a major player in the future of Arizona and in bringing in companies to the area,” he said. Barney also noted that everything is intertwined, so “if we all don’t work together, we lose together.”

Jr. Miss Gila River Bids Farewell After Serving Two-Year Term

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

After serving a two-year reign, Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson, District 3, will bid farewell to the role in March at the virtual 2022 Miss Gila River Pageant. Jackson served both years with great eagerness despite the pandemic, limited in-person events, social distancing, and mostly virtual programming.

Sineca was crowned Jr. Miss Gila River in 2020, as a sophomore in high school, just before the pandemic. As her year-long reign came to a close, she and Miss Gila River Alyse Marrietta were each allowed to serve a second term. Both young women accepted.

“It’s bittersweet because I enjoyed holding the title and representing the Community the best way I could,” said Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson. “And I just want to thank the whole Community for allowing me to hold this position, represent them, and I hope that I served the role well.”

Jackson said that she felt the Community’s support and that she remains grateful for all the encouragement. She mentioned that it wasn’t

easy, but through their support, she stuck with it for two years and followed through on an opportunity she’ll never forget for the rest of her life.

Utilizing her platform of “Self Care,” Jackson provided virtual programming for the Community focused on mental, physical, and spiritual wellness. In addition, Jackson held many events that helped her peers with virtual fatigue, culture and gender roles. She also hosted a mental health panel with neighboring tribal royalty.

Due to the pandemic, increased outreach and marketing, and PSAs on COVID-19 safety, vaccines almost became a secondary platform during Jackson’s reign. No matter the request, she was excited to be a part of the effort to keep the Community safe.

Jackson said her reign was full of numerous highlights. One of the most meaningful was the Drive-Thru Graduation Ceremony held in 2020. The hybrid event was one of the first for Jackson. She provided remarks before an audience at the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park. She said it was important to honor

the graduates during the pandemic and that she enjoyed the opportunity to address them.

Another highlight for Jackson was the “Get Out the Vote” virtual rally in 2020, where Jackson introduced Georgia Democrat and national political figure Stacey Abrams. Jackson said the event empowered the Community to use its voice in the upcoming national and community elections. Jackson said she felt honored to be part of an effort that mobilized a high voter turnout that year.

The pandemic posed some unique challenges to her reign, including being forced to navigate many events online via Zoom and WebEx. Jackson said the lack of in-person social interactions affected her motivation at times.

Also unique was her partner Miss Gila River Alyse Marrietta’s departure in Oct 2021. Marrietta became the 2021-2022 Miss Indian Arizona and had to resign as Miss Gila River. Both cite one another as motivators during the two-year reign.

“I am very proud of Sineca and all that she’s accomplished as Jr. Miss,” said Marrietta. “She’s

grown so much, and I know she’s going to grow to be a powerful leader in the Community. I look forward to what she has in store for her in her education journey and return to the Community.”

As Jackson closes out her reign, she also thanked her family for their unconditional support, Marrietta as Miss Gila River, the Miss Gila River Committee, Gila River Broadcasting Corp. for all the filming, GRHC Behavioral Health Services for platform events, the Communications and Public Affairs Office, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and the GRIC Community Council.

As for the newly crowned Miss and Jr. Miss Gila River, Jackson encourages them to find a good support system during their upcoming reign. She said she will gladly lend her assistance for the new court in the future should they seek it.

As this chapter comes to a close, Jackson has much to look forward to as she will graduate from Hamilton High School in May. This fall, Jackson will be attending her dream college, the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.

To honor Jr. Miss Gila River’s conclusion, a virtual farewell celebration for Jr. Miss Sineca Jackson will occur on Mar 12 at 10 a.m. The farewell event

will stream on Gila River Broadcasting Corp.’s Facebook page and GRBC channel 29.1 and re-air again at 5:00 p.m.



Jr. Miss Gila River 2020-2022 Sineca Sunflower Jackson donning the Jr. Miss Gila River Basket Crown at Aji. Kyle Knox/GRIN

AOPPYC Opens the 2022 UNITY Midyear Leadership Conference

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

The Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council (AOPPYC) opened the United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) annual Midyear Leadership Conference Feb. 25-27 in Phoenix—the first since 2019 due to the pandemic—by sharing songs and a land acknowledgment. The youth-led conference drew 400 youth and advisors from all over the country for three days of training, cultural sharing, musical performances by Native American artists and keynote addresses from prominent Native Americans.

"It's so important for us at UNITY to do a land acknowledgment; I'm so grateful for the O'otham sister tribes for banding together and presenting their culture and prayers in a beautiful way," said Mary Kim Titla, executive director of UNITY. "We thank the young people and advisors for bringing this together and kicking off the conference in a good way."

The opening performance featured the AOPPYC, the Ak-Chin Youth Council and youth from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, with songs led by the Chi'Chino O'odham Dance Group. Miss Indian Arizona 2021-

22 and Gila River Indian Community member Alyse Marrietta provided the land acknowledgment, which honors Phoenix as the ancestral homelands of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh.

The theme for this year's conference was "Restoring the Spirit of Native Youth." Since the pandemic, most of the UNITY programming has been virtual, so coming together was crucial to the theme. The in-person interactions provided a more profound understanding during training, which was often missed over the last two years.

"It's so nice that we can have UNITY Midyear in person while following COVID-19 safety protocols, and we want to make sure that everyone learns leadership skills but also [have] fun while doing it," said Titla. "We're offering a curriculum that promotes action planning so that when everyone leaves, they'll all be equipped with an action plan in hand, with 10 steps to conduct any type of community service project at home."

The conference provided a synergy not often felt when working virtually, and the difference was evident.

"It was energizing to attend the event. Seeing young people teach, learn and connect in person was refreshing and

energizing," said Michael Preston, AOPPYC youth coordinator. "Everyone looked very happy, and you could hear the excitement in their voices all weekend."

After identifying critical issues, many shared new insights and solutions to some of the issues youth face.

AOPPYC member Waylon Webb Jr. said, "Talking to other youth, I noticed the struggles of the youth in our communities and how some deal with depression by turning to drugs and alcohol." He added that he gained great ideas to bring back to the community.

Keynote speakers also were motivational. "I learned that one voice can be as powerful as a thousand from Quannah Chasinghorse," said AOPPYC member Crystal Lomayestewa.

Chasinghorse talked about her negative experiences as a youth and how to use that negativity as motivation for change. This inspired Lomayestewa and helped change her perspectives on her life, she said, adding, "This conference is life-changing. I can confidently say that I have gained so much knowledge, friendships and insights on different issues."

UNITY's National Conference will be held July 8-12 in Minneapolis, Minn.



Members of the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council and Advisors after providing the opening song and land acknowledgement for the conference. (Left to Right bottom row) Lehua Dosela, Eliana Antone, Crystal Lomayestewa (middle row) Anissa Garcia, Ariana Blackwater, Noni Grater, Michael Preston (top row) Kristopher Dosela, Waylon Webb Jr., Antonio Johnson. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Members of the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council, Ak-Chin Youth Council and youth from SRPMIC provided the opening cultural presentation for day one of the conference. Songs were led by the Chi'Chino O'odham Dance Group with youth and Miss Indian Arizona Alyse Marrietta (center) provided the land acknowledgement. Kyle Knox/GRIN

GRIC Youth Earns Junior Black Belt in Karate

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community youth has overcome several hardships to achieve what few individuals his age attain: Travaris Wright, 15, from District 5 received his junior black belt in karate last June.

"He started when he was nine," said Darla Hoover, Wright's mother. "He loves it, but there were times when it was hard for him." Wright, a Casa Grand Union High School student, has endured many trials from the time he started instruction in karate at the District 5 multipurpose building in 2016, including family loss, financial hardship and a lot of travel.

It was all worth it last summer when Wright, his mother and close family members traveled to Oak Grove, Missouri, for his test, after which he was awarded the status of junior black belt from the United Ryukyu Kempo Alliance. The URKA is a national organization committed to teaching a form of karate

that originated in Okinawa, Japan.

"Rolling Fist" Ryukyu is based around five core precepts, which are "good moral character, honesty, perseverance, respect and restraint or self-control," said Jenifer Tull-Gauger, Wright's instructor, who owns and operates East Valley Martial Arts (EVMA) in Mesa with her husband, Kirk Gauger.

She said Wright has done very well since his early days when classes were at the multipurpose building. He came upon the class when he was attending his school's science fair in the nearby gymnasium, she recalled, and from there he pursued his interest in karate.

"He thought he'd just try it out and then loved it from day one and caught the passion for it," Tull-Gauger said. "So, then we ended up not being able to teach there."

That was just one of the difficulties Wright has faced since taking up karate. It started when he lost his grandmother and

then his grandmother's sister. Coupled with other hardships, these losses caused him to halt his karate training. "When his grandmother passed away, he stopped going for a while, but I told him that even though grandma is not here, she would want you to continue," said Hoover.

Hoover said after some contemplation, her son decided to pick up karate instruction once more. Although he was ready to get back into the dojo, it was still a challenge to travel the long distance to Mesa, where Wright's instructors were based.

She added that the cost associated with her son's instruction was another challenge, setting him back again.

"One day they had reached out to us again and told us there was a scholarship there, [and] her and her other instructors considered my son and how ... he was determined to continue his instruction," said Hoover.

Thanks to that rare opportunity, Wright picked

up where he left off and continued to impress the Gaugers and instructors at EVMA. Tull-Gauger said Wright's commitment to karate is what factored into the school's decision to award him the scholarship.

Despite the challenges Wright faced leading up to testing for his junior black belt, Tull-Gauger said, he was prepared for the multi-day tests with people from around the country.

"It has been a stop, start with his whole instruction not being near his home, understandable losses in his family and with COVID," said Tull-Gauger.

Last October, Hoover lost her husband to, which also impacted Wright. She said her son learned all the fundamentals of basketball from her husband and that it is Wright's goal to play on the boys' team at his high school.

For a time, Wright was unsure of taking up karate again, but with the support of his mother and instructors, he continued his participation in something that he has made his own.



Travaris Wright (center) stands with his karate instructors Jenifer Tull-Gauger and husband (at right) Kirk Gauger, after being presented his junior black belt. Photo courtesy of Darla Hoover

"When we had his dad's services, I invited the instructors from my son's dojo... I thought I would make it a surprise, because I know it would have meant a lot to him to know they were there to support him," said Hoover.

Hoover also thanked the Community and family members for their show of support last year, when they hosted food sales to raise money for travel expenses to Missouri. "It was really good with the Community's support," said Hoover. "I was amazed by the amount of people that came out just to see him and wanted to help him out."

Hoover said the pandemic has been tough on the family, but her son has shown how important it is to take care of others. Tull-Gauger said Wright continues to demonstrate his leadership skills by helping younger students with their techniques and leading his peers and newcomers to the world of karate at their dojo.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • February 16, 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, February 16, 2022, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:04 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Terrance Evans

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #5 AND RESOLUTION #4

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2 THROUGH #4, AND #7 THROUGH #12; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1, #4, AND #5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction – Director of Veteran & Family Services Office, Eric White

Presenters: Suzanne Jones, Eric White

MS. SUZANNE JONES INTRODUCED MR. ERIC WHITE AS THE NEW COORDINATOR FOR THE VETERAN & FAMILY SERVICE OFFICE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2022. MR. WHITE IS A RETIRED UNITED STATES MARINE WITH 25 YEARS OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE. MR. WHITE HAS EXPERIENCE WITH THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AS A VETERAN AND AS AN ADVOCATE. MR. WHITE WAS A BENEFITS COUNSELOR WITH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES. MR. WHITE HAS A GREAT STAFF AND LOOKS FORWARD TO DOING GREAT THINGS WITH HIS DEPARTMENT. VARIOUS COUNCIL, GOVERNOR LEWIS AND LT. GOVERNOR ANTONE CONGRATULATED MR. WHITE ON HIS NEW POSITION AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM.

2. Introduction of Early Education Child Care Program Manager Philana Thinn

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Philana Thinn

MR. ISAAC SALCIDO INTRODUCED MS. PHILANA THINN AS THE NEW EARLY EDUCATION CHILDCARE PROGRAM MANAGER. MS. THINN HAS BEEN EMPLOYED WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR EIGHT (8) YEARS. MS. THINN IS A MOTHER OF TWO AND A FULL-TIME STUDENT AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY. MS. THINN IS EXCITED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK FOR CHILD CARE. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MS. THINN ON HER NEW POSITION.

REPORTS

1. Final AIRC Congressional and Legislative Maps

Presenters: Javier Ramos, Meghaen Dell'Artino

REPORT HEARD

>2. Community Technology Center 1st Quarter Report FY2021/2022

Presenter: Connie Jackson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Haskell Osife Antone Post 51 FY 2022 1st Quarter Report

Presenter: David Anderson, Belen Lawlor

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Gila River Asset Management – Great Call Rapid Response System 1st Quarter Report

Presenters: GRTI Board, Jim Meyers, Miane Men

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. FY2022 COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Report

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Suzanne Jones, Neomi Martinez, Sheila Valenzuela

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. COVID-19 Update

Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force

REPORT HEARD

>7. Office of the Prosecutor's FY2022 First Quarterly Report (October 01, 2021- December 31, 2021)

Presenters: Lando Voyles, Carlton Giff, David Williams

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. December 2021 Head Start Monthly Report

Presenter: Carolina Kelley

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. Office of the Head Start Monitoring Review 90CI009952 and 09HI000031 Notification and Report

Presenter: Carolina Kelley

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. GRTI 4Q 2021 Update
Presenters: GRTI Board, Jim Meyers, Jennifer Burkhalter

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. GRTI Notice of Filing – FCC Form 555 Annual Filing

Presenters: GRTI Board, Jim Meyers, Courtney Hogancamp

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>12. GRICUA FY21 Q4 Report

Presenters: Ken Stock, GRICUA Board, Arnold Mejia, Kathy Galloway, Erika Dawahoya

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. FY2022 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. Monthly Financial Activity Report Ending January 31, 2022 (Executive Session) Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Gila River Indian Community Department Of Transportation To Submit And Receive Funding From A Grant Application To The Arizona Department Of Transportation For Rural Transportation Services, On Behalf Of The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Dawn M. Coomer, Sreedevi Manthra

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. A Resolution Approving The Super Bowl LVII Sponsorship Agreement Between The Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee Inc. And The Gila River Indian Community (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval in Executive Session)

Presenters: Bartley G. Harris, Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Inter Tribal Council Of Arizona, Inc. And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Tribal Health Department For The Centers For Disease Control And Prevention Good Health And Wellness In Indian Country Grant (H&SSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Candalerian Preston

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving The Reinstatement Of Gabriel John Villarreal Into The Membership Of The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela; Deanna Enos

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Certifying The Membership Count Of The Gila River Indian Community As Of December 31, 2021 (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela; Deanna Enos

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Analysis Of Financial Benefits Of Potential Agreement With The State Fair Relocate To The Reservation (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under Unfinished Business in Executive Session for discussion and action; EDSC concurs)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DELCLINE THE STATE FAIR BUSINESS PROPOSAL

NEW BUSINESS

1. District Three Motion Sheet for the Housing Advisory Committee (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to appoint Katie Joaquin as the District Three Housing Advisory Committee member)

Presenter: Derwin Cooper

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MS. KATIE JOAQUIN TO THE DISTRICT THREE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2. FY2021 Annual Performance Report (APR) – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and approve with additional material)

Presenter: Derwin Cooper

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE

3. FY2021 Annual Performance Report (APR) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and approve)

Presenter: Derwin Cooper

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE

4. GRICUA FY21 Financial Audit, Single Audit, Communications Those Charged With Governance (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to accept; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: GRICUA Board, Ken Stock, Erica Dawahoya, Arnold Mejia, Kathy Galloway, Adam Cavin

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR NEW BUSINESS #5 AND #6

5. GRICUA Proposal to Provide Electric Service to Santan Mountain Casino (Executive Session)(G&MSC forwards to Council) Presenters: GRICUA Board, Ken Stock, Erica Dawahoya, Arnold Mejia, Kathy Galloway, Adam Cavin

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HAVE GRICUA BRING BACK UPDATED INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE SANTAN MOUNTAIN CASINO AND REFER TO EDSC

6. SRP Term Sheet (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council)

Presenters: Barney Enos, Jr., Steve Heeley, Casaundra Wallace, Thomas Murphy

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HAVE CEOT AND ATTORNEY GO BACK AND REDUCE THE EXCLUSIVE AREA SPECIFIC TO PROJECTS IN QUESTION AND THE RESOLUTION AND TERM SHEET BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

7. Gaming Internal Audit (GIA) FY2022 1st Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)

Presenter: Dena Thomas

Continued from Page 7

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT NEW BUSINESS #7 & #8

8. Revenue Internal Audit (RIA) FY2022 1st 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 #7

MINUTES

1. January 19, 2022 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

• HOUSING OWNERS TEAM MEETING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022 AT 1:00 P.M.

• GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE RESCHEDULED MEETING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M.

• TOUR OF CASA GRANDE SITE AT 8:30 A.M. IN COOLIDGE

• MEETING WITH DISTRICT 1 & 2 HOMEOWNERS AND THE HOUSING OWNERS TEAM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

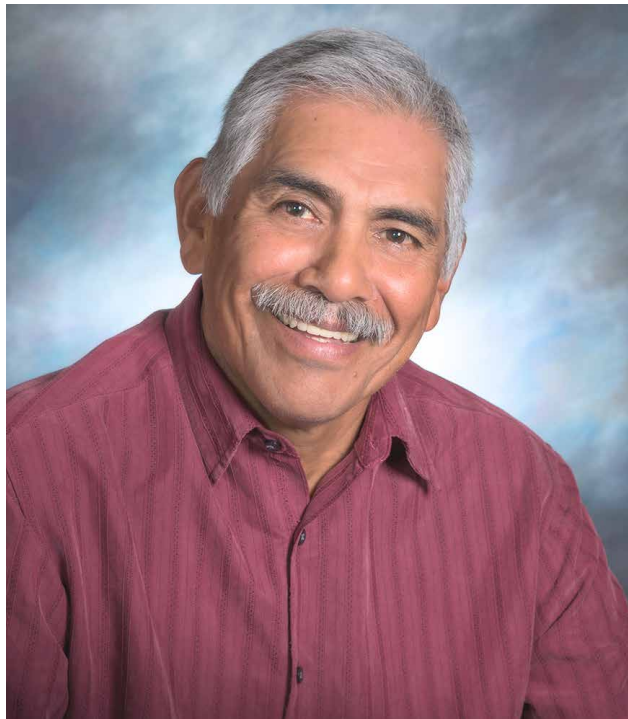
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:37 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Culture Corner

A ' A G A



Submitted by Billy Allen

Here we are -- marching into spring, hopefully putting Covid behind us. It

caused a lot of GRIC event cancellations. Earth Day is in April, and maybe we can get out and about for community activities for the doings. Covid - I've

read how landfills around the world grew because so much plastic is being used to fight the disease.

One way to ease the landfill situation is to be a thrift shopper. Reusing or repurposing is part of O'odham and Piipaash thought. Remember accompanying je'e/mother on scouting trips to second hand stores?

The clothing industry is a major polluter. About 10% of humankind's carbon emissions are due to textiles. Then 85% of those textiles end up in landfills where they degrade and end up in water systems, and also release methane into the atmosphere. Thrift store clothing helps cut down on water and energy waste from actually making clothes, and lessens transportation pollution shipping all new clothes around the earth. So, if you're a "thrifter," then you're a gifter to Mother Earth.

My cousin Myrna Allen is most definitely a

gifter! Her je'e/mother had an eye for a bargain, and so the apprentice learned from the master. Myrna shops at about 10 stores from South Phoenix to Mesa, all Huhugam country. She gave me lots of tips - special 20% discount days, online coupons, dollar days, stores with "good stuff," reasonable prices. A few of the bargains she has scored: a Nikon camera, a Coach handbag, a chain saw, electric hand tools for the yard and a small tool set. She has a collection of roasters for gatherings. She's purchased sewing machines and made clothes for the a'al/children, also teaching them how to sew! She looks upon shopping as retail therapy. Other cousins with sewing skills hit thrift stores for fabric, and also cut up skirts to reuse the fabric. Ingenuity!

Treasure hunting is how Velda Lewis views thrift shopping. "You never know what you are going to find," she said. Velda

says knowing the lay of the land is vital. She has that O'otham scout instinct. Some stores seem to always have better goods than others, so knowing that determines which store to check out. Common purchases are books. "I can find books on Kindle, but finding a book in the hand is great for me." She once found a practically new set of Harry Potter books marked for \$9.29 and then saw it on Amazon for \$50. One really good buy was an old timey wooden ice box which needed a block ice for refrigeration, a few of us may remember. Sticker price \$99.99 and she flipped it for \$400!

Many thrift stores are charity based, so they help people as well as the environment. The Salvation Army focuses on housing, food, recreation programs, adult rehabilitation, and disaster relief. Goodwill helps people with job training and has several youth programs. Some thrift

stores help fund services for military veterans. Our four-legged friends are part of the thrift world too. The Arizona Humane Society has thrift stores that help fund pet adoptions and some veterinary services.

Don't forget to donate to thrift stores too. Really old clothes that probably wouldn't get bought can go for "textile recycling." Clothing is reused in products such as carpet padding, rubberized playgrounds, and materials for the automotive industry. Organizations like Blue Jeans Go Green recycle unwanted blue jeans into housing insulation. Animal shelters usually accept old towels, blankets, and sheets, but check with them first.

Myrna and Velda got me motivated, so we'll go on the hunt for thrift bargains. If I could find a left-handed wrench, then I could get things done.

Numbers were taken from <https://bit.ly/3HKyBer>

REVISIONS TO TITLE 5, CRIMINAL CODE, TO DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA AND TO ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA ON THE GILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

Press Release Office of General Council

The Legislative Standing Committee ("LSC") will be considering proposed revisions to Title 5 of the GRIC Code to decriminalize marijuana and allow medical marijuana on the Reservation at their regular meeting on

March 29, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.. A copy of the proposed revisions to Title 5 of the GRIC Code in their entirety is available for review at each District Service Center, the Community Council Secretary's Office, or by contacting the Office of General Counsel at OGC.HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us or HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us.

If you are interested in providing comments on the proposed revision

of Title 5 of the GRIC Code, you may attend the scheduled LSC meeting, contact your Council representative or the LSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720, or provide written comments by email to the Office of General Counsel at OGC.HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us or by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Casandra Wallace.

Phase Approach

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) is utilizing a phased approach to transition between phases based upon changing conditions regarding the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the Community. Changes will be determined by the Tribal Health Department based on bi-weekly data reports and reviewed by the COVID-19 Taskforce and Leadership. Benchmarks are identified in the Tribal Health Department's COVID-19 Guidance for GRIC Departments, Entities, and Organizations. For data on Community Cases, review GRIC's Emergency Operations Center site at <https://www.gric-eoc.org/> for case rates and guidance document.

— Current Status as of February 24, 2022:

The Gila River Indian Community is in

Phase II

- The adoption and implementation of this guidance should be in collaboration with the organizations leadership and in compliance with its regulatory agency. GRIC Entities and Organizations should review their plan and relay their current workforce plans and needs to their employees.
- During Phase II it is recommended Departments/Entities/Organizations continue testing all employees, regardless of vaccination status.
- Organizations/Entities/Departments must follow Comprehensive Executive Order No. 13.
- For Tribal Government Departments 75% of its workforce will continue to telework until February 26, 2022.
- Beginning February 27, 2022 for Tribal Government Departments, 50% of its workforce will telework until March 12, 2022.
- Employees should contact their Supervisor/Manager/Director if they have any questions regarding their Department's, Entity's or Organization's plan.

— Planning Ahead

- After March 12, 2022, Tribal Government Departments should plan on either the workforce teleworking at 25% or all personnel reporting to on-site.
- The Tribal Health Department, COVID-19 Taskforce and Leadership will continue to monitor the risk of COVID-19 transmissibility and make necessary adjustments if required.

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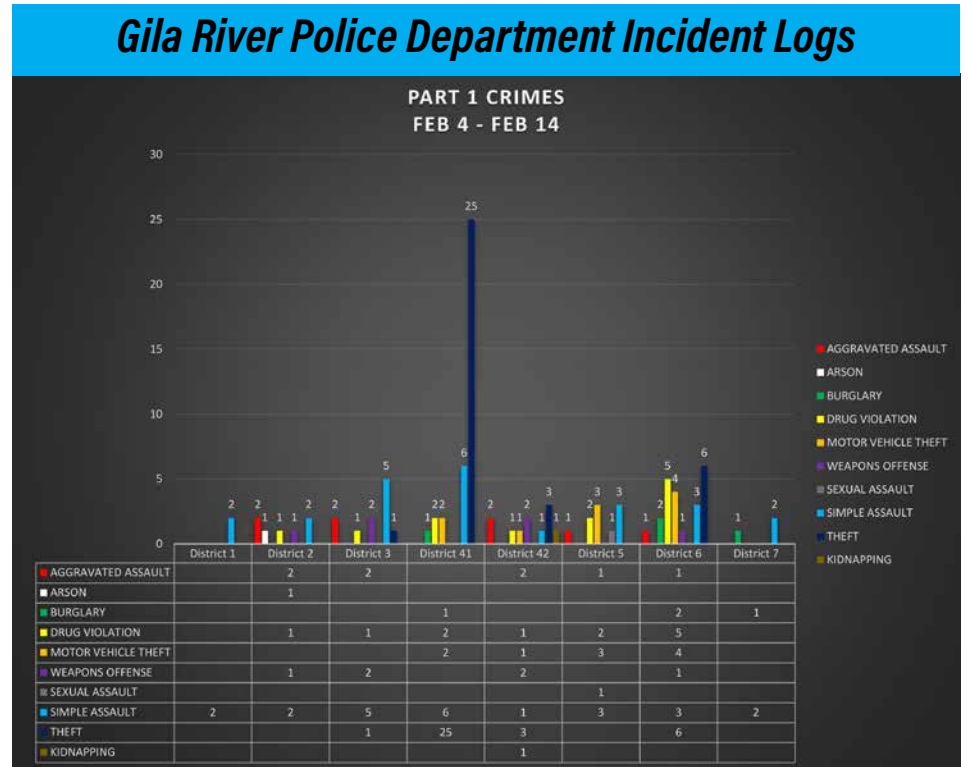
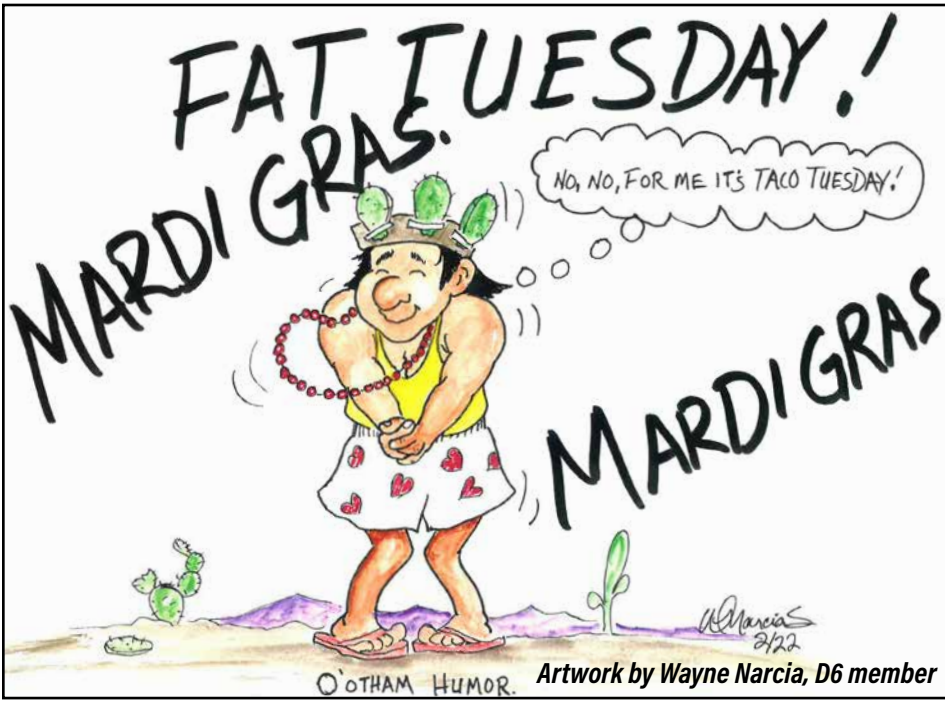
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Submissions & Notices

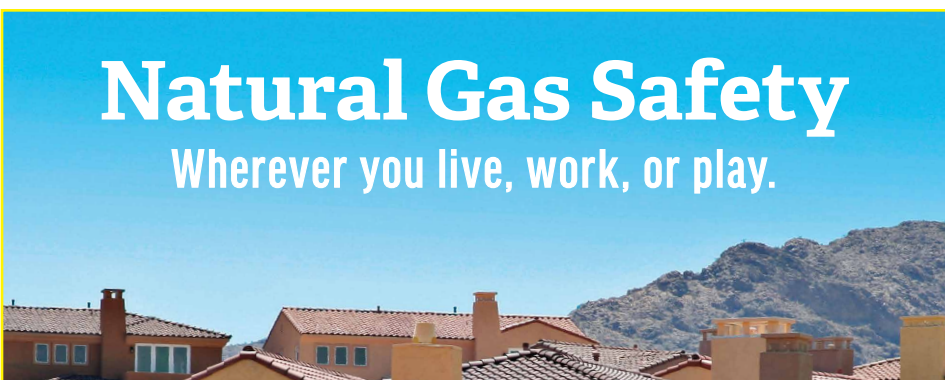


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- Don't smoke or use matches or lighters.
- Don't turn on or off electrical switches, thermostats, or appliance controls; or do anything that could cause a spark.
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IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

<p>DANIELLE OLIVER Petitioner/Plaintiff</p> <p>VS.</p> <p>VICTOR VALENCIA Respondent/Defendant</p>	<p>CASE Number: FM-2021-0043-DV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CIVIL SUMMONS</p>
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TO: VICTOR VALENCIA

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING regarding this matter on:

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 2:00 PM in Courtroom VII,
Westend Judicial Center,
4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ.

YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.

If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

DATED this 22nd day of February, 2022

Clerk of the Court
 Gila River Indian Community

OFFICE OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE

For Gila River Indian Community Tribal Courts

Declaration Period: March 4, 7 & 8, 5 p.m.

Declaration of Candidacy

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS OF THE
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
ARTICLE VI - QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. No person shall be elected or hold office as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge, Associate Judge or Councilmen unless he:

- Is a member of the Community;
- Has reached the age of twenty-five (25) years;
- Has been living in the particular district he is to represent for at least sixty (60) days immediately preceding the election;
- Has been living on the Reservation for at least one year immediately preceding the election. Additional qualifications may be prescribed by ordinance.

Section 2. No person who, within the year preceding the election, has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude shall be eligible to hold office in the Community.

Declaration Of Candidacy forms can be picked up at
the Tribal Elections Program Office only:
291 W. Casa Blanca Rd., Building 9, Sacaton, Arizona
Call TEP office @ 520-562-9735, for more information.

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