



Community Celebrates Veterans Day



Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51, Women's Auxiliary Unit 51, and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone during the flag raising and military honors. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

This year, events unfolded across the nation and within the Community to honor, celebrate, and pay tribute to all who have served this nation's military on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

In District 1, the Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51 and Women's Auxiliary Unit 51 held their annual Veterans Day Celebration.

Beginning at the Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 and Unit 51 building in District 1, Veterans and Community members came out for a one to two-mile run/walk along

Blackwater School Road.

As veterans and participants completed the run/walk, they were cheered on by the Blackwater Community School Pep Squad.

"I'm just grateful to be here and thankful that our post continues to serve the Community and honor our veterans, our brothers and sisters, our family members," said Community Council Rep. Joey Whitman, an Army Veteran who served in the 82nd Airborne Division.

He added, "Over the pandemic we lost a couple of our brothers and sisters, our families that served... And with those that are still here,

it's good to be together and have that camaraderie and just celebrate the Community."

Military honors included a flag raising in honor of those who served. Wreaths were laid out on the memorial monuments as a special remembrance of those who have passed.

Events continued at the District 1 Multipurpose Building, where veterans and attendees were treated to lunch, raffle prizes, and special gifts for veterans provided by the Haskell Osife-Antone Women's Auxiliary Unit 51.

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GRIC Veterans Attend NMAI Memorial Dedication



Community veterans march together through Washington, D.C. from the NMAI to the National Mall lawn for the National Native American Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony Friday Nov. 11. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Kyle Knox

Gila River Indian News

Over a dozen GRIC veterans made the journey to Washington, D.C., for the dedication of the Smithsonian Institutes National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) National Native American Veterans Memorial on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. The GRIC delegation featured members of the Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51 and Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84.

The dedication featured a

procession from the NMAI to the National Mall lawn for the formal dedication ceremony.

More than 1,500 Native veterans from every military branch participated in the procession, including the GRIC delegation.

"It feels amazing and I'm honored to be here today and pay respect to those that came before us and those that will come after us," said Gary Rodriguez, a U.S. Army veteran from District 1. He enjoyed celebrating Veterans Day

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Women's Prayer Run Returns In-Person

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

The 9th annual Women's Prayer Run throughout the Community, returned Nov. 5-6.

Over 100 women participated in the two-day, 65-mile journey which began at sunrise in District 7 with a blessing near the Pee Posh wetlands at the confluence of the Gila River and Salt River.

"All your prayers combined will help each and every one of you," said Pamela Thompson, co-founder and coordinator for the run. This year's theme focused on gratitude.

"I'm very excited to be here with all these women and to pray. It's something I've been needing, so I'm very thankful for the people that put it on," said first time participant, Alena Nahsonhoya, GRIC member from District 5.

"I am doing it for prayers for my Community, for people that are lost in our Community with drugs

and alcohol, people that we've lost, and loved ones," said Nahsonhoya, who also runs in honor

of her grandfather, the late Cecil Lewis Sr., who passed away this summer.

Lena Hutchinson, District 4, has been participating in the run for a few years and continues to

return.

She said, "When I first started, I wasn't a runner and this is what got me going."

Hutchinson typically dedicates the first day to herself, offering prayers for her to be a good mother, friend, sister, and daughter. On the second day, she is joined by her five daughters to finish out the run.

"I love the prayers about it. You know, you come in with heavy shoulders and us as women, we carry a lot," said Hutchinson, "After this run, a lot is taken off our shoulders and you can feel the weight when it's lifted off. That's one of the reasons I continue to do this run."

The run which is relay style for the majority, brings together women of all ages in unity for prayers for one another, their Community, and themselves.

Samantha Tashquinth, District

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Dozens of runners arrive in District 6 on Saturday Nov. 5. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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Healthy Kids & Families



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NOVEMBER

COVID / FLU VACCINE LOCATIONS

You may also visit a GRHC Primary Care Department for vaccines. Walk in or schedule an appointment by calling (602) 528-1280.



SCAN FOR VACCINE INFORMATION

Friday
November 18

Komatke Health Center
Life Center Health Fair
10 am - 3 pm

Saturday
November 19

Hu Hu Kam Memorial
Life Center Health Fair
10 am - 3 pm

Monday
November 21

District 1 Service Center
9 am - 3 pm

Tuesday
November 22

District 1 Service Center
9 am - 3 pm

Thanksgiving Holiday

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

CLOSED

Thursday 11/24, Friday 11/25 & Saturday 11/27

HHKMH Pharmacy Curbside Hours

Thursday, 11/24

CLOSED

Friday, 11/25, Saturday, 11/26, Sunday, 11/27

10:00 am - 8:00 pm

GRHC's regular business hours will resume Monday, 11/28.
If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the
Emergency Department at HHKMH.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449



Alluvion Communications

An enterprise of the Gila River Indian Community



Alluvion Now Delivering Broadband Service in Coolidge, AZ.

On September 15th, Alluvion Communications and the Coolidge Chamber hosted a mixer and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the launch of broadband service in Coolidge. After months of planning, designing, and construction, we were thrilled to announce the availability of high-speed, fiber-based, broadband connectivity.

Alluvion's entry into the Coolidge market offers several benefits to the local business community, including faster internet speeds, reliable connectivity, future-proof broadband infrastructure, and affordable internet service. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the city and local business community by promoting economic growth and meeting the mission-critical needs of businesses and their customers.



Employees of Alluvion Communications and Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. introduce themselves to attendees of the Coolidge Chamber Mixer.



Pictured left-to-right: Coolidge Vice Mayor Steve Hudson, Sen. T.J. Shope R-Coolidge, state Rep. Teresa Martinez R-Casa Grande.



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Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor

Monica Antone

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Joey Whitman

District 2

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District 6

Anthony Villareal, Sr.
Terrance B. Evans
Charles Goldtooth

District 7

Devin Redbird

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Billy Mills Visits Skyline Gila River High School

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Olympic Gold Medalist, Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota), joined Skyline Gila River High School for an evening on Friday, Nov. 4.

As part of the school's Native American Heritage Month, Skyline Gila River and the iRise Foundation presented a Community event featuring a visit from Mills where students and families had a chance to meet and ask questions of the olympian, followed by a viewing of the film "Running Brave" which portrays his Olympic success.

Mills, won the 10,000-meter race in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, becoming an Olympic Gold Medalist. At the time, he set a world record of 28 minutes, 24.4 seconds and is still the only American to ever win a gold medal in the 10k event.

"I enjoyed being here tonight and the opportunity to speak with the Community," Mills said, "I'm so blessed to have an opportunity speak to our youth."

Seventh grader Rayonnah Mix, was chosen from a contest among the students at Skyline Gila River to introduce Mills during the event.

"I feel proud to be chosen because of how many people look up to him," said Mix, who felt many of the students could relate as most of them also run track.

Mills shared his background and some of the challenges he's faced growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation, where he was surrounded by poverty and orphaned at the age of 12.

During high school he set numerous records in track events and earned a track scholarship from the University of Kan-



Billy Mills speaks to students and families during a Community event at Skyline Gila River High School on Nov. 4. Emma Hughes/ GRIN

sas before serving in the United States Marine Corps.

In 1986, Mills founded Running Strong for American Indian Youth and became a spokesperson for the organization where he travels and visits Native American communities throughout the country, speaking to youth about healthy lifestyles and taking pride in their culture.

Mills was recognized during the event with a special presentation by the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) President GinaMarie Scarpa and Mark West, who presented Mills with a commemorative NABI basketball.



After winning a school award, 7th grader and GRIC member Rayonnah Mix was chosen to introduce Billy Mills at the event. Emma Hughes/ GRIN



Billy Mills signs an autograph for a District 5 member. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Billy Mills greeting Skyline Gila River High School students at the event. Emma Hughes/ GRIN

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2022
— 1 mile • 5K • 10K • Half Marathon —

Hashan Kehk Baseball Fields at 8458 Park St, Sacaton, AZ 85147
Registration opens November 1st, 2022.
Open to the FIRST 125 participants.

Must be enrolled members of Gila River Indian Community.
Registration deadline: **Thursday November 17, 2022 or Until Full**

Register online at:
bit.ly/3V6dmM5 Or scan QR code

Veterans Day from page 1

Post 51 Chaplin Jewel Whitman provided a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance from the Blackwater Community School Pep Squad.

Vietnam Army Veteran Lancelot Lewis reflected on his time in the service and his return home.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone also spoke at the event, expressing her gratitude for the veterans and their families.

"If it weren't for them warriors, we wouldn't have the freedom we have today," said Lt. Gov. Antone, "So thank you veterans, all branches, thank you for those that are serving and thank you for the families that support you."

She added, "When they get out of the military, they still do civic duty with our burial details and the veteran groups that we have in our Community."

District 7 Events

Veterans Day events continued throughout the Community, including a small gathering in District 7

on Nov. 11.

Members of the Pee Posh Veterans Association began their activities by visiting the District 7 cemetery to honor veterans from the district that have passed. Then, at the service center, they held a flag ceremony, where flags were raised to half-mast, followed by a 21-gun salute and performance of "Taps."

The District 7 Service Center then provided a brunch for everyone in attendance where Community Council Rep. Devin Redbird welcomed everyone. A prayer followed his remarks for everyone in honor of the occasion by Edena Antone. Vietnam veteran Ernie Bread provided some closing remarks and shared the importance of Veterans Day and remembering those that paid the ultimate sacrifice during their military service.

After the closing, the Pee-Posh Veterans then proceeded to District 6, where they visited the Co-op Village, St. Johns, Gila Crossing, and Santa Cruz. Then later that day they made the trip to pay respects at District 4 and District 5 cemeteries.



Ernie Bread (U.S. Army veteran) shares closing remarks for everyone at the District 7 Veterans Day event. Photo courtesy of Paul Molina



Members of the Pee Posh Veterans Association at the flag raising ceremony at the District 7 Service Center on Nov. 11. Photo courtesy of Paul Molina



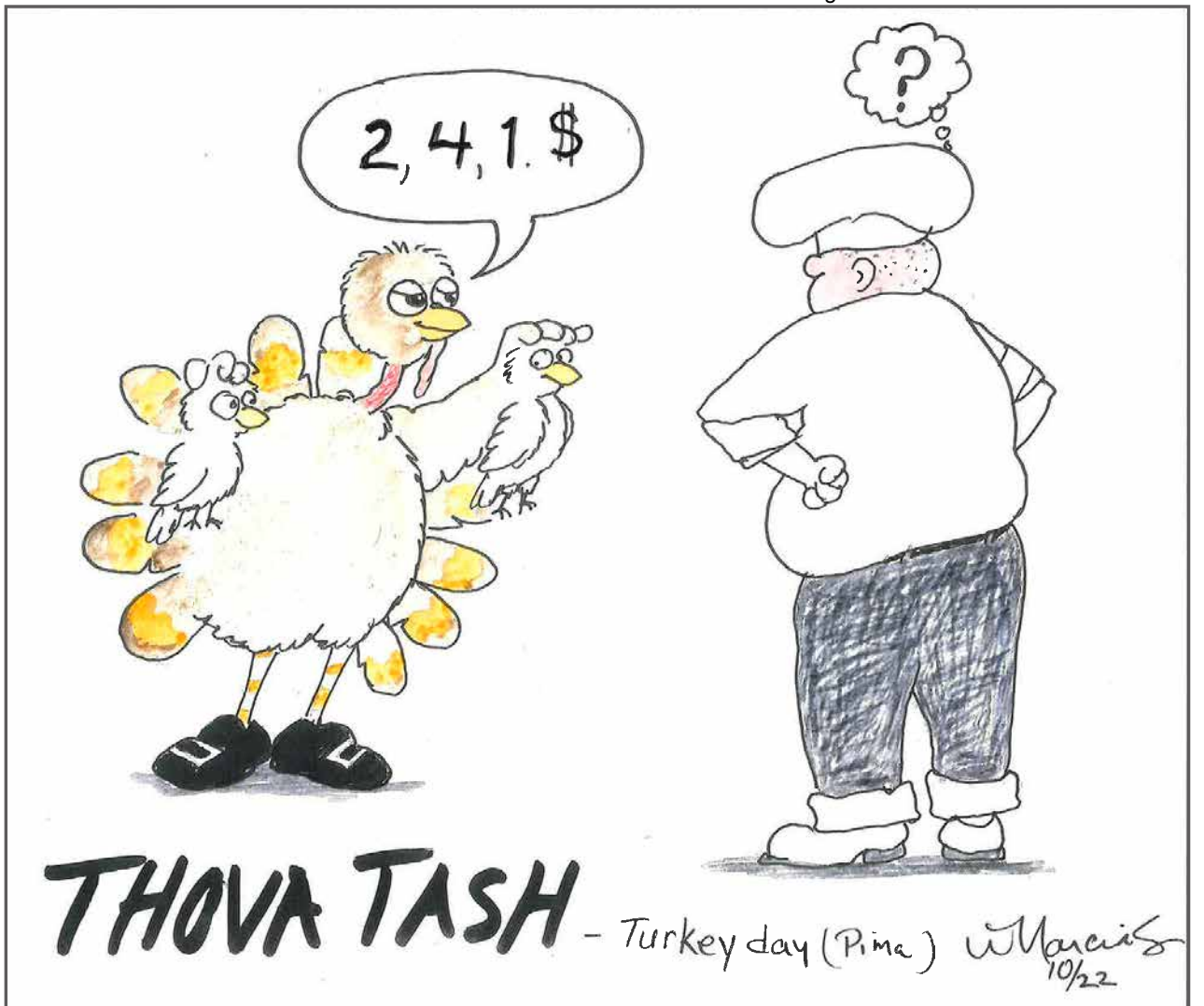
Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51, Women's Auxiliary Unit 51, and Community Members during the flag raising and military honors. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Veterans raise the flag on the lawn of the Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 and Unit 51 building. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Haskell Osife-Antone Women's Auxiliary Unit 51 lay wreaths on the Veterans memorial monuments in District 1. Emma Hughes/GRIN



THOVA TASH - Turkey day (Pima) w/ Marcia's 10/22

Promotional Ceremony Held for Marine Sgt. Sage Etsitty Jr.

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

On Nov. 11, United States Marine Corps Sgt. Sage Etsitty Jr. was promoted in a pinning ceremony during the Veterans Day Celebration hosted by Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51 and Women's Auxiliary Unit 51.

"I've always held this Community close to my heart. They've always helped me out," said Sgt. Etsitty, Dine/Akimel O'odham.

Etsitty was born on the Navajo Nation in Fort Defiance, Ariz. He moved to the Gila River Indian Community when he was three.

"I pretty much lived here most of my life," he said.

During the ceremony, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and fellow Marine David Jackson presented Sgt. Etsitty with his promotional pins.

"It's an honor to be here and be part of the celebration," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, "It's a very high honor to pin Sgt. Sage Etsitty Jr."

Etsitty, served in the USMC for four years and was honorably discharged in 2020, receiving a promotion from Corporal to Sergeant.

Unfortunately, his official promotional ceremony faced delays due to the pandemic and other technical delays.

Etsitty was introduced to the ROTC program while attending Hohokam Middle School in Coolidge.

"That's what really kickstarted everything for me, making the decision to join the Marine Corps."

He later joined the JROTC in high school, putting all his time and energy into it. Some of his friends recall him stating he would

be "the best native cadet."

After graduating high school, he enlisted and was shipped off to boot camp with the full support of Post 51.

"They gave me advice to get prepared for what's to come and just pushed me through every day and keep moving forward."

Utilizing the leadership traits and principles he learned in high school helped lay the foundation for his goals. He was then assigned to a job as a cyber network operator in the Marine Corps.

"From there I kind of just like figured out this is something I want to do," he said, "I think this is a good career to start off. And I honestly got very fortunate, very lucky to be landed in a field of computers."

After his discharge, he moved to Virginia for a year. He attended the Microsoft Software & Systems Academy (MSSA), which offers a unique program for Veterans to learn technical and soft skills like communications, resume building, and more.

After completing the program, Etsitty acquired a obtain a job with Microsoft.

"That Microsoft program and my experience in the Marine Corps. definitely helped me, set me up, and now I'm working remotely."

He says one of the key things he has learned throughout the years is to empower others and go back to your community and empower the community that you represent.

"That's been my goal for the most part, and that's where I'm at right now just networking, letting people know what I did and be a helping hand to be able to get them somewhere."

Etsitty thanked Post 51 and Auxiliary Unit 51 for his



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone presents Sgt. Etsitty with his promotional service pins at the District 1 Multipurpose building Nov. 11. Emma Hughes/GRIN

promotion and all the continued support.

"I've always wanted to make them proud and show them that I can do this. We can all serve and help the Community and help veterans together, So I'm very proud to be among them."

He also extended his gratitude to Post 51 members Darrell, Joey Whitman, and fellow Marines Virgil and Gary Rodriguez.

"They've been there since the beginning and they've been very helpful in staying in touch with me." Sgt Etsitty stated.



Vietnam Veteran Lancelot Lewis officiates the promotion of Sgt. Etsitty. Emma Hughes/GRIN

AMENDED COMPREHENSIVE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16
MASK MANDATE HAS BEEN REMOVED



The mandate that stated all persons including Community members, employees and visitors over two (2) years of age who are present within the boundaries of the Reservation shall wear a protective face mask while inside common areas of any tribal government building or while inside any school located within the Reservation, regardless of vaccination status HAS BEEN REMOVED.

The Fifteenth section also states: students, teachers and school employees shall not be required to wear masks.



Jr. Miss Gila River 2022-23 Eliana Rhodes, Marine Sgt. Sage Etsitty, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, and Miss Gila River 2022-23 Kelsey Martinez during the Veterans Day Celebration in District 1. Emma Hughes/GRIN



HEADLINES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Monica Antone
Lt. Governor

GRIC Leadership Attends Native Veterans Celebration at the Pentagon

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On Nov. 10, the Pentagon hosted a Veterans Day celebration in honor of Native American History month in Washington, D.C.

Inside the courtyard of the Pentagon, tribal leaders and veterans across the country gathered to recognize the history of Native peoples who have honorably served in the United States military. The event was a collaboration between the United States Air Force Dept., Indigenous Equality Team, Headquarters Dept. of the Army, and Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and District 3 Community Council Rep. Avery White were in attendance on behalf of the Community.

“This was a long overdue historical event to be a part of and witness,” said Gov. Lewis, “for the Pentagon to recognize the long-standing history of

Indian Country’s contributions to the service of this nation was amazing to see.”

The celebration for the event began with a traditional Native honor song and posting of colors by members of the Kiowa tribe. Other performances included traditional singing from The Uptown Singerz, a performance from a Cochiti Pueblo singing group, and cultural dancing throughout the event.

As part of the month-long tribute, tribal nation

flags flew atop the Pentagon on Nov. 9, including the GRIC Flag.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Maureen Trujillo, Cochiti Pueblo, spearheaded the efforts for the event on behalf of the Air Force Dept., Indigenous Equality Team. Beginning early this year, planning commenced for the Nov. celebration. And by August, all the parties came together to coordinate the event.

“As of 2020, shy of 20,000 members of active

duty force is American Indian or Alaska Native, and approximately 140,000 call themselves veterans today,” said Lt. Col. Trujillo.

Lt. Col. Trujillo also mentioned that American Indians serve in the military at the highest rate of any ethnic group in the country. And for that, she was proud to see this event take place.

“Today has been one of the proudest moments in my 20-year career serving in the Air Force because we were able to bring our peo-

ple into the Pentagon and celebrate them in a meaningful way, not only those here today but all those who have served since the Revolutionary War,” said Lt. Col. Trujillo.

Speakers throughout the event echoed the notion of the “warrior spirit” embodied in every American Indian community. And that this event honors the American Indian military service that also protects their ancestral homelands throughout the country.



Air Force Lt. Col. Maureen Trujillo served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Inside the Pentagon courtyard, veterans and tribal leaders listen to singers from Cochiti Pueblo (left) as part of the entertainment for the event. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Lt. Gov. Antone Speaks at Native American Women’s Conference

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The 7th annual Native American Women’s Conference took place at the Gila River Resorts & Casinos — Wild Horse Pass on Nov. 4.

This year’s theme was “Live, Love, Lead,” bringing together over 300 women for empowerment, connection, and professional and personal growth with the all-day event featuring speakers, panelists, exhibitors, and vendors.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone was featured among the speakers, sharing her life’s accomplishments and adversities that have aided her to become the advocate and leader she is today.

In 2020, she earned her Bachelor’s in Government Affairs and Public Policy, encouraging others that it’s not too late to continue their education.

She highlighted her advocacy on the Violence Against Women Act

(VAWA) and her work as a member of the state’s coalition on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children.

Lt. Gov. Antone paid special homage to her dear friend and mentor, the late Mary V. Thomas, the first woman to serve as Governor for the Gila River Indian Community.

Lunch included a fashion show displaying work from Joanne Miles-Long, a designer from GRIC who

created “RRR. RAID.”

Miles-Long’s RRR. RAID brand creates unique attire from recycled clothing, taking modern-day fashion and fabrics and adding a traditional spin. Miles-Long also held a roundtable on how to upcycle your wardrobe.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Miss Indian Arizona 2022-23 First Attendant 22-23, Lehua Lani Dosela (GRIC), showcased dresses by Miles-Long.



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Miss Indian Arizona 2022-23 First Attendant Lehua Lani Dosela. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Gila River Indian Community Lt. Gov. Monica Antone shares her story with attendees at the 7th annual Native American Women’s Conference held at Wild Horse Pass. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, modeling a dress by GRIC designer Joanne Miles-Long during fashion show at the Native American Women’s Conference. Emma Hughes/GRIN

The Late Rodney B. Lewis Recognized by Indian Gaming Association

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The Indian Gaming Association (IGA) presented an award to the late Rodney B. Lewis, father of Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, on Nov. 15.

The award presentation occurred during its Mid-Year Conference & Expo held at the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort in Fort McDowell on Nov. 15.

“He’s one of my heroes,” said IGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr and long-time friend to Mr. Lewis and his family.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife, Willardene Pratt Lewis, and three adult children: Stephen Roe, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, John Blaine, Katherine Elizabeth, and grandchildren.

The “Legendary War-

rior of Sovereignty” Award was presented to the family of Mr. Lewis for his outstanding work as a leader and representative for Native American gaming rights and exercising tribal sovereignty.

“I just want to say, on behalf of my family, we’re honored and humbled to have IGA recognize my father,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

As a trailblazer in the Community and across Indian Country, Mr. Lewis was the first Native American attorney to be admitted to the State Bar of Arizona and the first Native American attorney in the nation to argue and win a case before the United States Supreme Court.

“How fitting it was that he got it today, on his birthday,” said daughter Katherine Lewis, “We usually do something as a family to remember the day, so this was nice.”

She said it’s good to remember all the hard work her father did and the groundbreaking legacy he left behind.

“He was a strong advocate for tribal gaming and helped getting our first casinos,” said Katherine, “I remember that, you know, when I was young, them talking about the casinos and that seemed such like a far-off thing but now we’re groundbreaking for our fourth one and we’re really doing well.”

Gov. Lewis said, “My father represented our Community from the beginning of Indian gaming, from the first compacts he was there



Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr., presents Willardene Pratt Lewis with a posthumous award for Rodney B. Lewis. Emma Hughes/GRIN

and he led the fight to make sure that tribes had always negotiated compacts.”

Mr. Lewis served as the general counsel of the Gila River Indian Community for 30 years, beginning in 1978. In this role, he led the GRIC’s negotiations with the federal government, the state of Arizona, and more than 30 non-Indian parties. The Arizona Water Rights Settlements Act of 2004, Public Law 108-451, was passed directly due to these negotiations. It remains the

largest tribal water rights settlement in the history of the United States.

In private practice later in his career, Mr. Lewis served as a consultant for the prominent Washington, D.C.-based law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld. His private practice career led to successful federal water rights settlements on behalf of the Crow Tribe of Montana and the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians in California, among many tribal clients.



Family of Rodney B. Lewis: Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Katherine Lewis, Willardene Pratt Lewis, IGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr., and Daniel Lewis. Emma Hughes/GRIN

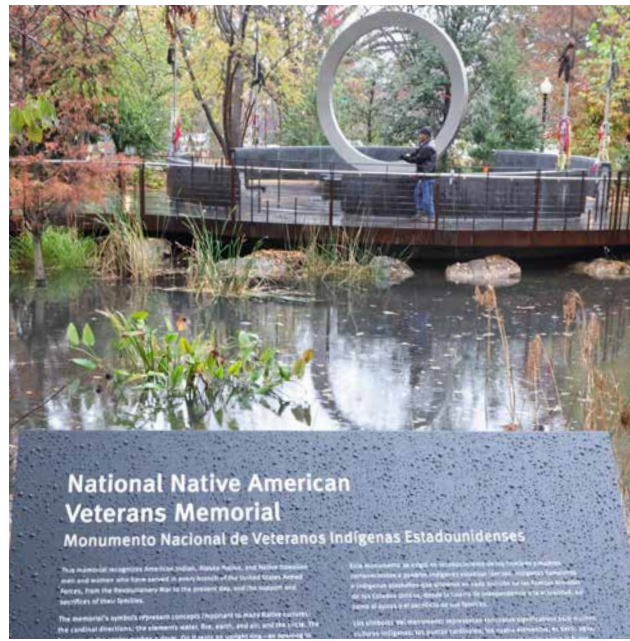
Memorial Dedication from page 1

with GRIC members and other Native veterans.

Rodriguez served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was wounded in Al-Fallujah. He met others that served in Iraq and made new relationships with those veterans while in Washington. “There’s a lot of camaraderie here, it’s a very inclusive community here, it’s great to network and support other tribes here because we only get stronger when we’re together,” said Rodriguez.

“Being here today in D.C. on Veterans Day is rewarding, being here among other Native Veterans is exceptionally rewarding, and to be honored is fantastic,” said Gary Anderson, a retired U.S. Army veteran from District 3.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial, named “Warriors’ Circle of Honor,” features a vertical steel circle balanced on a carved stone drum. In addition, the designer Harvey Pratt, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Okla. incorporated water for ceremonies visitors may hold, benches for gathering and reflection, and four 14-foot lances where veterans, family members, tribal leaders, and others can tie cloths for



A veteran visits the National Native American Veterans Museum in Washington D.C. Kyle Knox/GRIN

prayers and healing, according to the NMAI website.

Pratt is a Vietnam veteran and served from 1962 to 1965 with the United States Marine Corps. Drawing from his military experience, Pratt designed the memorial to create space for veterans and their families to gather, heal, reflect, and honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice Native American veterans have given to this country.

At the formal dedication ceremony, guest speakers included Lonnie G. Bunch III, Smithsonian Secretary; Cynthia Chavez Lamar, NMAI Director; Sharice Davids, U.S. Rep. from Kansas; the first Native American astronaut John B. Herrington; Jefferson Keel, Lt. Gov. Emeritus of Chick-

asaw Nation; Denis Richard McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Harvey Pratt, Memorial Designer; Wes Studi, Actor, and Film Producer; Dan Sullivan, U.S. Sen. from Alaska.

“Unfortunately, in American society, for the most part, American Indians are pretty invisible,” says Cynthia Chavez Lamar, NMAI Director. “The memorial is one way to represent, to make us visible.”

During her remarks, Chavez Lamar shared that of the 18 submitted designs, Pratt’s was selected. And in the early stages, NMAI consulted with 12,000 Native veterans across 16 states, including the District of Columbia.

Gov. Lewis and District 3 Community Council Rep.



GRIC Veterans in attendance for the procession included L-R: Darrell Whitman (U.S. Army), Yvonne Ganegoda (U.S. Air Force), Rebecca Rowe (U.S. Navy), Christina Lopez (U.S. Marine Corps.), Belen Molina Lawlor (U.S. Air Force), Chesley Juan Jr. (U.S. Navy), Gary Rodriguez (U.S. Marine Corps.), Nathan BrownEagle (U.S. Marine Corps.), Gary Anderson Sr. (U.S. Army), and David Anderson (U.S. Army). Kyle Knox/GRIN

Avery White also attended the dedication.

“I felt proud to see our GRIC veterans march along the National Mall with other Native veteran groups,” said Gov. Lewis.

“Indian Country has always answered ‘the call’ first and in greater numbers than any ethnic group in the country, from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror, so it was great to see that legacy of service on display in the nation’s capital in honor of the new monument.”

The Community was one of many tribal communities to support the memorial’s construction. Gov. Lewis commends the past

GRIC Community Council leadership for recognizing this important investment.

Gov. Lewis stated, “As governor I was so proud to see the memorial and know that the Community was one

of the first sponsors of the memorial that will recognize and pay tribute for every Native veteran that has served and remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to this country.”



GRIC veterans make their way to the National Mall past the Washington Monument. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Prayer Run from page 1

4, has been an active runner for the past five years and is joining the Women's Prayer Run for her fourth year. She is running for suicide awareness and sobriety this year.

"I sacrifice my own body as prayer," Tashquinth said.

The women proceeded through District 7 and District 6, with a visit and lunch at the Gila River Health Care's Residential Treatment Center before proceeding to a campsite for the night in Sacate Village in District 5.

Stephanie Burnett-Antone, District 5, currently resides in Ak-Chin and returned for this year's run. She was one of the few chosen to run for her district last year when the run was limited to attendees due to COVID precautions.

"Last year we did it virtual, but we had a group still of maybe 15 runners," she said, "We ran in District five, which for me was very powerful because of everything that was going on, I felt our district needed prayers."

This year's run continued through District 5, which in past years wasn't always incorporated in the route.

Martina Baptisto, from the Tohono O'odham Nation, has been joining the run for eight years now.

"It's helped me throughout the years. I met so many ladies that I can call my sisters, you know, it's just a good experience for women," Baptisto said, "It's always good to see a lot of new women coming in and joining us."

The run continued on through District 5 with a stop in District 3 at the Matthew B. Juan - Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park for lunch.



Runners stand ready before departing District 6 to District 5 concluding the first day of the run on Nov. 5. Emma Hughes/GRIN

With each stop made more women joined the run, continuing on through District 2 and concluding in District 1 with a meal at the Multipurpose Building.

Hutchinson encouraged other women to join for next year's run, which will also celebrate the tenth year.

"We have women of all ages that come, women that haven't ran for years, women that will run not even a quarter mile," said Hutchinson, "We go at the pace of the person that's going to be the slowest, which is good."

She added, "You come out, you meet new people, you know, as women, we go through a lot and you may think that somebody isn't going through what you're going through and if you come and you meet new women, they might be going through the same exact thing you're going through and you help each other through it."

Current reigning Miss Gila River Kelsey Martinez joined for her fifth year in the run.

She said "I just want to say thank you to everybody that participated and

that came out and decided to see what us women can do

when we all get together and show our support for one another."



Two runners trek across District 6 Saturday Nov. 5. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Women gather for prayer before continuing on with the route in District 3 on Sunday Nov. 6. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Arizona Cardinals Continue Football Camps for Youth

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

To get Community youth active again, the Arizona Cardinals hosted football camps at Gila Crossing Community School, Casa Blanca Community School, and the District 4 ball field in Oct. and Nov.

The camps were made possible through the partnership with the Arizona Cardinals and Gila River Resorts & Casinos (GRRC). The camp curriculum follows the NFL's "Play 60" campaign that provides

outreach focuses on healthy activity throughout the Valley and tribal communities.

Manuel Hernandez, Public Relations Coordinator for the GRRC, said, "It's all about the kids and getting them out and back into an active routine."

The partnership with the Arizona Cardinals and their Play 60 outreach has developed immensely over the years. Hernandez is pleased to see it continue in the Community after the pandemic

The evolving partnership includes the Arizona

Cardinals hosting flag football teams from the Community to play during regular season halftime shows.

Drawing several youths to participate, the camps taught the fundamentals of football, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The camps challenge Youth to complete various football drills that test their coordination with passing and catching. While others test their endurance by running through drill stations where they must jump, dodge, and communicate with other participants.

At the Casa Blanca Community School camp, Rex Desvaristes, Manager of Youth Football for the Arizona Cardinals, said, "These camps help get the children active and build a healthy life-style. Now that

schools are back in session, we have a chance to instill a healthy, active life-style and build healthier communities overall."

Desvaristes and his team worked with 100 youth at the Casa Blanca camp.

As a bonus to working with the Arizona Cardinals trainers and mascot "Big Red," students received an Arizona Cardinals drawstring backpack and water bottle as part of their participation for the day.



Youth compete in a relay at the end of the camp utilizing skills learned earlier in the day at Casa Blanca Community School. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



NOTICE
2023 Agricultural Lease Payment

The 2023 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.

On **Friday, January 20, 2023**, Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Finance Department. Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729
(staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Arizona time)
The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 12, 2022.
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 20, 2023. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 12, 2022.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed. Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 20, 2023.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.
*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received by January 3, 2023.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • Nov. 2, 2022

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, November 2, 2022, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:04 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Joey Whitman

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll
Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Arzie Hogg, Joey Whitman; D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison, Regina Antone; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:10), Charles Goldtooth (9:19), Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Attending via WebEx Platform:

D3- Avery White (Travel)

Council Members Absent:

D3- Rodney Jackson

D2- Ann Lucas (Travel)

D4- Nada Celaya (Travel)

D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (Travel)

D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (Travel)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE PRESENTATION/INTRODUCTION #1 DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE PRESENTERS; DISPENSE REPORT #3 AT THE REQUEST OF THE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE, TABLE REPORT #7 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #2, #4 THROUGH #6, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #4, AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #2,#3, AND #4 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. The Caring House Administrator in Training Transition

Presenters: GRHC Board of Directors, Ross Wilkoff, Linda Soto, Dr. Anthony Santiago

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

REPORTS

>1. 4th Quarter Pee-Posh Veteran's Association Budget Report

Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. FY 2022 Final Pee-Posh Veteran's Association Budget Report

Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. St. Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Education Allocation Annual Report for School Year 2021-2022

Presenters: Father Antony Tinker, Fabian Terry, Jeffery Thornburg

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Education Allocation Annual Report for School Year 2021-2022

Presenters: Jim Mosley, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Education Allocation Annual Report for School Year 2021-2022

Presenters: Debbie Ybarra, Lynnette Michalski, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. Sacaton Elementary School Tribal Education Allocation Annual Report for School Year 2021-2022

Presenters: Stephanie Celis, Lynnette Michalski, Jeffery Thornburg

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. September 2022 Head Start Monthly Report

Presenter: Carolina Kelley

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REPORTS 8-11

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

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

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Gila River Gaming Enterprises Inc. Monthly Report for September 2022 (Executive Session)

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

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. FY2022 Schedule of Investments September 30, 2022 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. FY2022 Financial Activity Report ended September 30, 2022 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

{GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:19 A.M.}

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Extending The Gila River Indian Community Vaccine Incentive Program Second Disbursement For Community Members To Minor Community Members Who Are Eligible To Receive A COVID-19 Vaccine As A General Wel-

fare Program Of The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)

Presenters: Suzanne Jones, Governor Stephen R. Lewis, Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Summer Dawn Braby 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

>3. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Andrew Castillo Trevino 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

>4. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Alyssa Delma Lopez 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

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Code of Conduct Complaint – Preliminary Assessment (LSC motioned pursuant to the Code of Conduct, section 1.501 (B) (2) to refer the Complaint for a complete investigation and to designate the Office of General Counsel as the Special Investigator and that OGC may submit the Preliminary Assessment as the complete investigation)

Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Shannon White

ITEM HEARD

[COUNCIL ENTERED INTO CAUCUS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 12:43 P.M.]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FINDING THAT PENNY HAYES, AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE GILA RIVER GAMING COMMISSION, VIOLATED THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT, TITLE 1, SECTION 1.402(H), FOR HER UNAUTHORIZED USE OF COMMUNITY PROPERTY ASSIGNED TO HER, AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO A 30-DAY UNPAID SUSPENSION, EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY

>2. GMSC Concurrence With The Litigation Teams Motion Authorizing P-MIP To Request Funding From The Community In The Amount Not To Exceed \$3

Million To Enable P-MIP To Issue A Phase 1 Design-Build Contract To T&T Constructing/Stan-

tec Consulting To Accelerate The Design And Construction Of The Planned Reclaimed Water Pipeline Project With Such Funding To Be Reimbursable To The Community Once The Federal Funding Agreement For The Pipeline Has Been Finalized (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval with the funding to come out of Arizona State Treasury and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: David DeJong

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. FY2022 Revenue Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Dena Thomas

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. FY2022 Gaming Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Dena Thomas

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. Letter of Resignation for Court of Appeals Judge (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to accept the Resignation of Todd Matha and to declare the vacancy of an unexpired term)

Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY OF AN UNEXPIRED TERM AND ADVERTISE THE POSITION FOR 60 DAYS THROUGH THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT APPLICATIONS WILL BE FORWARDED FOR THE REVIEWING COMMITTEE REVIEW

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

6. GRTI-GRBC Concerns (Executive Session) (EDSC forwards to Council with additional information)

Presenters: Jennifer Burkhalter; Tom Judd, GRTI Board of Directors

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XII, SECTION 5 OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN CONSTITUTION THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO REMOVE THE MEMBERS OF THE GILA RIVER TELECOMMUNICATION INCORPORATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT AN INTERIM BOARD CONSISTING OF CHAIRPERSONS AND OR THEIR DESIGNEES, COUNCILMAN ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR., ARZIE HOGG, JAMES DE LA ROSA, CHARLES GOLDTOOTH, AND DEVIN REDBIRD

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE INTERNAL AUDIT OFFICE TO WORK WITH THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL TO DEFINE A SCOPE OF WORK AND CONDUCT A SPECIAL AUDIT OF GRTI

MINUTES

1. October 19, 2022 (Regular)

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• COUNCILMAN JOEY WHITMAN, COUNCILMAN AVERY WHITE, AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS WILL BE ON TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DEDICATION

• SPECIAL NATURAL RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022 AT 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

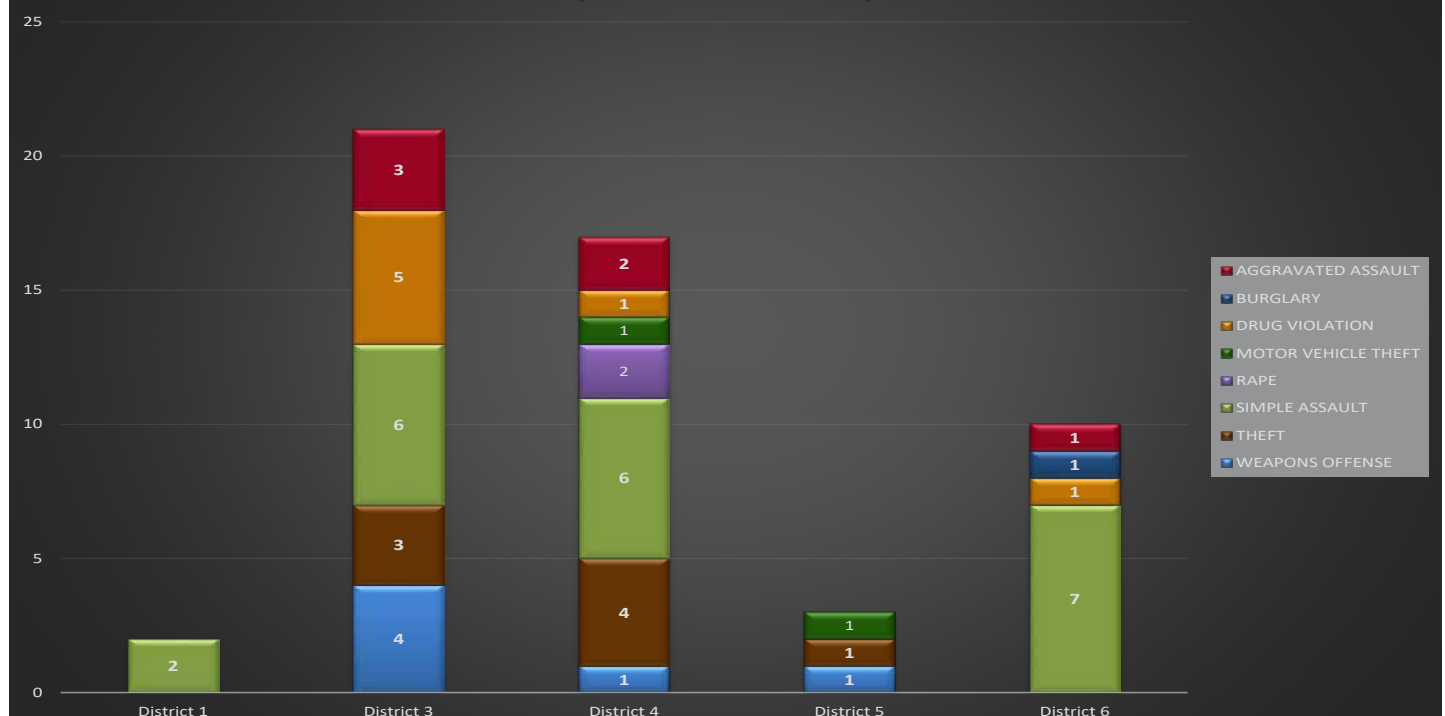
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:04 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

PART 1 CRIMES (NOVEMBER 1- 13)





S-ua:m Mashath

Submitted by
Huhugam Heritage Center

S-ua:m Mashath means the yellow/brown month in the Akimel O’otham language. The name refers to the plant-life that goes dormant during the winter months. This month is also Native American Heritage Month honoring the Heritage of all Tribes within our Nation. Important to many Tribes, are the relationships with the natural universe, especially Birds of Prey. The feathers, down, claws and other parts are used in ritual ceremony and curing practices. Our Hekiu O’otham named several birds that live on our community. These birds, which are commonly known as raptors by Ornithologist’s, have special places in our cosmology.

Two of these raptors that are important to us are the Golden Eagle and Sonoran Desert Bald Eagle. Both are known by the same name, Ba’ag in O’otham. Another raptor that can be seen in our community, during its fall/spring migrations, is the Vakoañ Ba’ag (Osprey). Its name translates to the Heron-Eagle, which references how this raptor hunts fish, as a primary source of food. This raptor also has the ability to hover in the wind motionless until it locates prey and dives down to catch it with claws extended

forward. We are very familiar with Haupal (Red-tailed Hawk) since they live with us year-round, their familiar calls are distinct and easy to identify. Their kosh (nest) is also easily identifiable due to their large size.

One raptor that spends the winter with us is Vakav (Northern Harrier). An alternate name for this visitor is S-he:p Wa’atham, (The bringer of the cold.). Vakav can be observed flying low over fields and brushy areas. The distinct white patch on its backside makes it easy to identify. Thobav (Harris’ Hawk) primarily hunt the desert cottontail rabbit and are known to hunt in groups. They can be identified by the red feathering on their shoulders and upper legs. The yellow coloring of their beak and legs helps in identifying them from a distance.

In the group labeled Falcons by Ornithologist’s, our Hekiu O’otham named three raptors. These raptors are known for their swiftness and ability to dive extremely fast to catch prey. Vishag (Prairie Falcon) is known to live high up in the mountains, they will protect their nests if approached, by diving swiftly near the intruder while giving warning calls. Che:thag Vishag (Peregrine Falcon) is another raptor that lives on high ledges and cliffs. They are known to dive very fast and often attack its prey repeatedly with a series of short

quick dives. Sisik (American Kestrel) is the smallest falcon that lives on our community. They are known to move into abandoned woodpecker holes to set up their nests. This is another Falcon that is known to hover in the wind before diving down to catch its prey of insects and small rodents. They are easily observed perching on power lines along roadsides. All the Birds of Prey mentioned above are very important to us and are mentioned in our Creation Stories, hunting songs, war songs and social songs.

This month’s word match will feature O’otham Birds of Prey. We encourage you to learn the bird names and use them in your everyday lives. We also encourage you to join us during the upcoming Winter Bird Count. From all of our families, here at the Huhugam Heritage Center to yours, we wish you a S-he:kig Thova Thash! (Happy Thanksgiving)!

A Special Thank You to Community Elders whose knowledge about O’otham Birds of Prey that made this article possible. Additional information related from, Wings in the Desert: A Folk Ornithology of the Northern Pimans, Amadeo M. Rea, PhD, 2008, University of Arizona Press.

**Word Match
Solution on Page 12**

11. O’otham Birds of Prey Word Match 2022

Ba’ag



Ba’ag



Vakoañ Ba’ag



Haupal



Vakav



Sisik



Thobav



Che:thag Vishag



Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

Nov. 8 Midterm Elections Motivate Community Voters

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Across the nation, millions exercised their civic duty and went to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, for the midterm elections. Arizona voters decided who would lead in significant leadership roles in the state, including Arizona Governor, numerous Senate and House of Representatives seats, and ballot measures.

Six polling sites were available in the Gila River Indian Community to ensure the Community’s voice this heard election season.

This year volunteers from Native Vote, a nationwide voter campaign, were stationed at each polling site throughout GRIC. Their efforts ensured that every person had an opportunity to vote that day and assisted voters by answering any questions they had before entering the polls. In many cases, voters weren’t sure if a tribal identification card would serve as a proper form of ID to vote, which it is.

Chia Beetso volunteered through Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor Indian Law Clinic, and set up in District 4. She provide support so that anyone



that wants to vote can vote. Additionally, Native Vote was also present to monitor any forms of voter intimidation.

During her shift, she helped over 60 voters. She noted that District 4 had a substantial number of voters that morning and was excited that so many GRIC members voted.

“Historically, people don’t usually vote during the midterms, so it’s great to see so many voters today because we need to make sure we vote in good Arizona state senators and representatives,” said Beetso. “The more we [Native Americans] can get out and vote, the better we

are to get our voices out and heard, served, and protected.”

In Arizona, many races were contentious, with official results not being announced until the weekend in some cases.

For some of the bigger races, Katie Hobbs was elected to serve as the new Arizona Governor, Sen. Mark Kelly was reelected, and Rep. Tom O’Halloran was defeated for Arizona’s Congressional District 1.

All three campaigns visited the Community during the “Get Out The Vote” rallies held from Sept. to Oct. and made a point to include GRIC in their leadership scope, if elected.

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

PREVENTING TYPE 2 DIABETES

It has been proven you can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes with these 3 lifestyle changes which are achievable.

LIFESTYLE CHANGE WORKING OUT
<https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/basics/index.htm>

CHANGE IN DIET Eating healthy
<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/managing/eat-well.html>

FIND TIME TO RELAX Manage Stress
<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/managing/mental-health.html>

If your at risk for type 2 diabetes, talk to your doctor about getting a simple blood sugar test to confirm it.
 If you’re diagnosed with prediabetes, consider joining a lifestyle change program.

For more information regarding Diabetes Prevention please visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevent-type-2/index.html>

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

AOPPYC President Attends White House Tribal Youth Summit

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On Nov. 14, The White House, United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), and the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) at the Aspen Institute held its annual White House Tribal Youth Summit.

This year, the Akimel Oodham/ Pee-Posh Youth Council (AOPPYC) 2022-23 President, Ariana Blackwater, District 3, attended on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community.

“It’s a privilege to work alongside the Administration and our relatives at UNITY to ensure meaningful dialogue with Native youth in our Nation’s capital,” said CNAY Executive Director Nikki Pitre in a press release.

She continued, “We are thankful for our partners and supporters who have worked so hard to allow us to bring together over 100 Native youth leaders to the White House Tribal Youth Summit.”

The one-day summit featured a program focusing on mental health, wellness, climate change, food sovereignty, education, language preservation, and more.

Native youth from across the country engaged in these critical discussions with high-level administration officials and special guests.

“The youth selected for this forum have demonstrated strong leadership skills and the desire to have their



AOPPYC President Ariana Blackwater stands next to a portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama inside the White House Hall. Photo courtesy of Ariana Blackwater

voices heard on issues important to them,” said Mary Kim Titla, UNITY Executive Director, in a press release issued by The White House.

“We were able to hear from so many iconic Indigenous leaders and influencers who prove that being Native, you have more power than you know and can achieve anything that you can dream of,” Blackwater said.

The summit continued with many remarks and discussions with Indigenous leaders, including the first Indigenous woman from NASA to go to space, Nicole Mann from the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribe; “Reservation Dogs” actor D’Pharaoh Woon-A-Tao; and Native American model Quannah Chasing-

horse-Potts.

“This has been an amazing experience for me and I am eager to bring all that I have taken in on this trip back to the Community,” said Blackwater, who also had the special opportunity to attend a White House meeting with First Lady Dr. Jill Biden on Nov. 15.

“It had felt like something out of a fairy tale, red carpet on the floor, countless rooms on all sides, and live music playing,” Blackwater described, “We stood in a room where Dr. Jill Biden and U.S. Sec. of the Interior Deb Haaland spoke.” Later that evening a hoop dance was performed for everyone, another highlight for Blackwater.

She emphasized the importance of having these in-



AOPPYC President 2022-23 Ariana Blackwater at the White House Tribal Youth Forum in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Anissa Garcia

teractive discussions about the many topics throughout Indian Country and what tribal youth could do to help make changes within their own communities.

“It’s empowering and reassuring, seeing that us as Native people, carry this on to see positive change throughout Indian country for many generations to come,” said Blackwater

Submission
ARTIST OPEN HOUSE
 SATURDAY DECEMBER 3
 11AM TO 4PM
 SHELDE BUILDING
 5710 NORTH LOOP ROAD
 CHANDLER AZ 85226
 WE ARE SEEKING COMMUNITY ARTISTS WORKING IN ALL FORMS OF MEDIA FOR THE NEW GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
 Come and learn about the project and the opportunities! Feel free to bring examples and/or photos of your work.
 Questions?
 Please contact Laurie Post at 602-243-4300
 LPost@TelaArt.com



Ft. McDowell Youth Council President Aysha Rasool, “Reservation Dogs” actor D’Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, and AOPPYC President Blackwater at the White House Gathering on Nov. 15. Photo courtesy of Ariana Blackwater

COURT DATE NOTICE
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
 TO: Miguel Bandin
 IN THE MATTER OF JOANNA MATTIA,
 Petitioner/Plaintiff vs.
 MIGUEL BANDIN, Respondent/Defendant
 CASE Number: CV-2022-0177-ZMV
 CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court.
 YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING regarding this matter on:
 Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 10:30 AM in Courtroom 1,
 AKIMEL O’OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,
 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.
 YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.
 If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
 GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.
 DATED this 4th day of November, 2022

Gila River Community Bike Ride Series 2022-2023

Gila River Fall Bike Ride in District 3 Saturday, November 5, 2022 10:00am 5 mile Route & 10 mile Route	Water Rights Day Bike Ride at MAR 5 Saturday, December 10, 2022 10:00am 5 mile Route & 10 mile Route
Gila River Winter Bike Ride in District 6 Saturday, January 7, 2023 10:00am 5 mile Route & 10 mile Route	Gila River Bike Tour Day 1 from District 6 to Wild Horse Pass Saturday, February 18, 2023 10:00am 12 mile Route
Gila River Bike Tour Day 2 from Wild Horse Pass to Casa Blanca Market Sunday, February 19, 2023 10:00am 17 mile Route	Gila River Bike Tour Day 3 from Casa Blanca Market to Blackwater Monday, February 20, 2023 10:00am 21 mile Route
Gila River Spring Bike Ride in District 4 Saturday, March 25, 2023 10:00am 5 mile Route & 10 mile Route	Register Here

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

Phoenix Suns Honor Native American Heritage Month

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

The Phoenix Suns honored all 22 tribal nations in Ariz. on Nov. 16, in recognition of Native American Heritage Month, by debuting a new “City Edition” turquoise jersey. Intricate Native designs adorn the new jersey that pays homage to all of Ariz.’s tribes. Programming for the game also featured highlights of Ariz.’s tribes through their “Originativ” campaign.

Deviating from the traditional Suns purple and orange colors, the new jersey features the word for ‘sun’ in each tribal language embedded along the side. It also features a medicine wheel at the bottom of the jersey.

For the first game, The Phoenix Suns featured a pregame blessing song performed by members of GRIC, a Native American performance took place before tipoff by Indigenous Enterprise, and Originativ displays running throughout the game featuring Native graphics and designs.

“In coordination with our Gila River Resorts & Casinos, tonight the Phoenix Suns are debuting a beautiful turquoise jersey to honor Native American Heritage Month for everyone here, na-



Sporting the new Suns jersey, a fan takes a moment to view the new wall display inside the Footprint Center featuring all 22 Ariz. tribal nation flags. Kyle Knox/GRIN

tionwide, and for the world to see,” said Gov. Lewis.

He added, “The jersey and tonight’s event were made possible through coordination with all parties from Cahokia Socialtech + Artspace, NABI, the 22 tribes, Phoenix Indian Center, and more. We all came together to ensure these jerseys were designed respectfully and used our own tribal artists to showcase this [jersey] here at the Footprint Center, which sits on the traditional homelands of our Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh.”

Cahokia Socialtech + Artspace collaborators, including co-founder Eunique Yazzie, Jeremy Arviso, and Paul Molina, spearheaded the development of Originativ designs for the game. Their designs streaked across every LED panel in the arena that night, donning the turquoise theme featuring Native designs.

Cahokia’s partnership with the Inter Tribal Council

of Arizona led to the collaboration with the Phoenix Suns Organization.

“It was very serendipitous how it [Originativ] all came together, and I’m very happy that we could all bring something to the table in that space,” said Yazzie. “Also seeing people learn more about our tribal communities through our work was really exciting to see throughout the night.”

The Phoenix Suns organization also revealed a new wall display inside the arena that features the flags and seals of all 22 tribal communities from Ariz.

The display was sponsored by NABI and Gila River Resorts & Casinos.

“To have representation here, when our Native American people and youth walk in this arena, in a great way, we’re reclaiming our place, and the Phoenix Suns are acknowledging that and celebrating it too,” said NABI President GinaMarie Scarpa.



Deandre Ayton and Devin Booker in the new “City Edition” uniforms that recognize Native American Heritage Month, just before tip off against the Golden State Warriors. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Paul Molina, Jeremy Arviso, and Eunique Yazzie collaborated to create the “Originativ” designs seen throughout the arena for the Nov. 16 game. Kyle Knox/GRIN

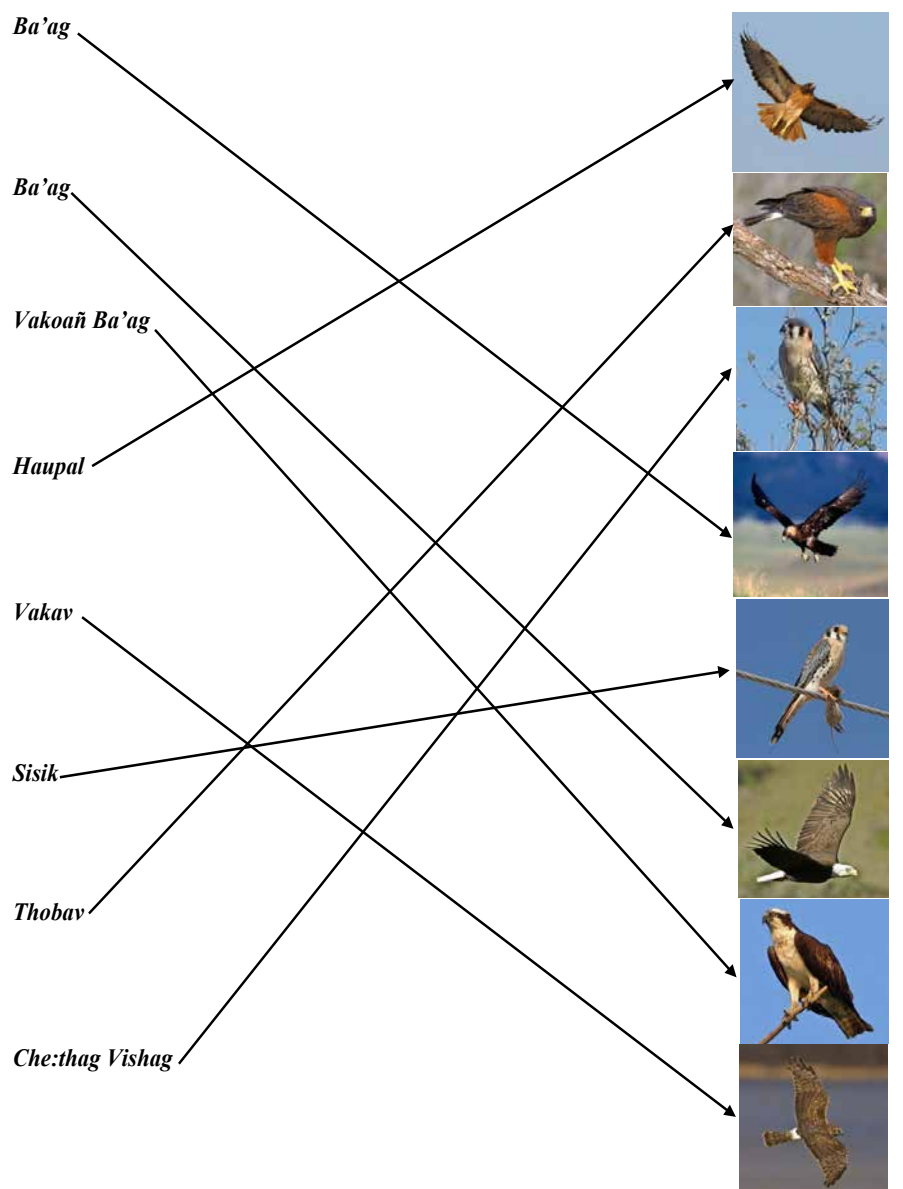


Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel, GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier wear the commemorative Phoenix Suns jacket gifted to every tribal leader, during halftime on Nov. 16 . Kyle Knox/GRIN

Submission

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

11. O’otham Birds of Prey Word Match 2022 – SOLUTION!



Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

WINTER BIRD COUNT

DECEMBER 3, 2022

Huhugam Heritage Center- 23159 S. Maricopa Road



7 AM: Meet at the location nearest you to receive your field assignment

District 5: Casa Blanca Chevron Station
(Casa Blanca Rd. & I-10)



District 6: Komatke Chevron Station
(51st Ave. & Pecos Rd.)

District 7: Service Center
(83rd Ave. & Baseline Rd.)

Huhugam Heritage Center

23159 S. Maricopa Rd.

11 AM: Cultural Activities Begin

1 PM: Bird Count Concludes



Please Note: Transportation is not provided for this event.

ALL MINORS must be accompanied by an ADULT



RIVER OF LIGHTS PARADE

CHRISTMAS IN CANDYLAND

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022
6:00 PM | SACATON AZ

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ENTRY IS NOVEMBER 18, 2022
NO UNAPPROVED VENDORS OR SOLICITORS ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE

DISTRICT 3
SACATON

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (520)-562 9715

Community CLEAN UP

SAVE THE DATES

- District 1 - November 5, 2022 @ 7:00am
- District 2 - December 17, 2022 @ 8:00am
- District 3 - January 21, 2023 @ 8:00am
- District 4 - February 18, 2023 @ 7:00am

More information will be provided on location.

For more information or questions contact
(520)562-1866 or youthcouncil@gric.nsn.us

Pictures taken at Pima Community
El Cabo Chihuahua, Mexico.
December 2021

Christmas Donations needed for

Pima & Tohono O'odham Children of Mexico

Seeking donation of NEW sweaters, coats, jackets and gloves.
For infants to 18 years old.
Deadline for dropping off items is December 17, 2022.

Drop off location for items (sweaters, coats, jackets and gloves) is at
House #226, Gila Butte Circle & Arizona State Hwy. 587
Items can also be picked up.
For pick up or information Call Marshall Sunna at
(520)424-1561 or
Email: wumpss58.ms@gmail.com

Thank You for Your Support.
Happy Holidays

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4x4

2019 JEEP RENEGADE



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2018 TOYOTA TACOMA



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NOV 26 | 8PM
**NATIVE AMERICAN
ALL-STAR COMEDY
NIGHT**



DEC 3 | 8PM
MIKE EPPS



DEC 9 | 8PM
**A TRIBUTE TO THE
MUSIC OF JOURNEY**
VOYAGER



DEC 10 | 9:30PM
T-PAIN & RICK ROSS
*OFFICIAL FUELFEST
AFTER PARTY*



DEC 11 | 8PM
DIAMOND RIO
HOLIDAY & HITS



Wild Horse Pass
Lone Butte
Vee Quiva

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

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