



## Phoenix Suns Renovate District 5 Basketball Court

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

The District 5 Multi-Service Center and the Phoenix Suns, in partnership with Gila River Resorts & Casinos (GRRC), revealed a newly renovated basketball court on Friday, June 9. The new basketball court features new basketball posts and hoops, resur-



**Ish Wainright practices dribbling with a youth during the clinic.** Kyle Knox/GRIN

faced concrete, and a fresh paint job that matches the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury colors.

In attendance for the event were Phoenix Suns CEO Josh Bartelstein, Suns broadcaster Tom Leander, senior director for live presentation Shawn Martinez, and Phoenix Suns forward Ish Wainright. Also in attendance for the occasion were Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, and District 5 Council members James De La Rosa and Franklin Pablo Sr. Gila River Resorts & Casinos' Dominic Orozco, president and chief marketing officer was also present.

District 5 residents and youth attended the event, with dozens of the children admiring the court and visit from the Phoenix Suns.

"Growing up in the Community, 20 years ago we didn't have a court like this, but we played anyway because we love the game of basketball," said Gov. Lewis during his remarks. "For those starting on your education journey, Basketball can be that avenue to help you along the way because it teaches teamwork, discipline,



**Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Community Council members, and staff from the Phoenix Suns cheer as the ribbon is cut opening the new basketball court in District 5.** Kyle Knox/GRIN

and respect."

Gov. Lewis expressed his appreciation to the Phoenix Suns for their continuous partnership with GRIC and the ORIGINATIV pro-

gram, which paid tribute to Arizona's 22 tribal nations by using the turquoise City Edition uniforms during the recent season.

The basketball court renova-

tion is an extension of the ongoing partnership with the Phoenix Suns ORIGINATIV initiative.

*Continued on Page 7*

## DEQ cultivates over 200 pollinator plants outside new building

**Velia Moncada**  
Gila River Indian News

On the warm morning of June 12, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), along with 2023-24 Junior Miss Gila River Eleanor Lynch, students and teachers from the Sacaton Middle School, and wildland firefighters united to plant over 200 plants in a "Pollinator Garden" at the DEQ's official headquarters. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funded the project through a Pollinator Garden Grant. This grant supports the expansion of DEQ's building.

"I'm really excited this is going to look awesome," said Jr. Miss Gila River Eleanor Lynch. She is a frequent volunteer who dedicates her time to producing several plant projects at DEQ "The Pollinating Garden helps the Community by providing more vegetation, instead of it just being barren land."

Tri-Valley Landscaping supplied the low-water-use plants for the pollinator garden. Volunteers from various groups, including Santa Fe Hotshots, Geronimo Hot Shots, Carson City Hot Shots, and Pima Fire Management, assisted

DEQ's cultivation of plants on their new facility land. All the volunteers offered their time and efforts from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to help DEQ's cultivation of plants at DEQ's new building site.

"We're literally planting roots," said DEQ's Habitat Specialist, Mariah Clark, a crew lead

for the Fuels and Restoration crew. Clark has worked with DEQ for the past three years restoring Gila River's habitats from invasive wildlife plant species. She explains her excitement over the department's headquarters and

*Continued on Page 10*



**Mariah Clark, Crew Lead and Habitat Specialist at DEQ (far right) demonstrates to the Sacaton Middle School students and teachers how to transplant the plants from the pot to the ground.** Velia Moncada/GRIN

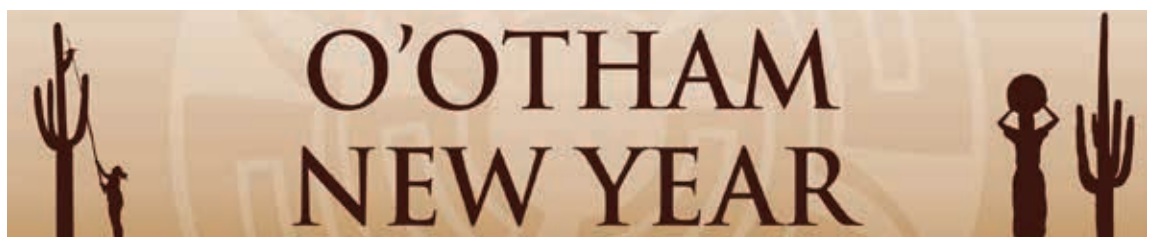
## Fallen Soldiers honored at Memorial Day Services



*Full story on page 6*

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GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE (520) 550-6079



GRHC.ORG/HUB

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

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For any information on services open during the holiday, please call (520) 562-3321. Normal business hours will resume Wednesday, July 5th.

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Gila River Indian Community Members

**GET READY!**

Gila River Primary Election & General Election is coming...

**Voter Registration is OPEN**

Come out and register or update your information at one of these locations:

- July 1, 2023, 12 pm - 4 pm  
District #1 Fourth of July Event
- July 15, 2023, 8 am - 12 pm  
District #3, Sacaton Post Office & District #7 Multipurpose Bldg., Gymnasium
- August 5, 2023, 8 am - 12 pm  
District #5, Casa Blanca Market

**Last day to register: August 7, 2023**

You can also stop by the Tribal Elections office or contact your District Judge to register/update your information, today, tomorrow, before the deadline.

For more information, call our office at (520) 562-9735 or 562-9758

Gila River Indian Community 2023

**PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE**  
Districts 1 - 7

- June 20, 2023: GRIC members who possess the qualifications defined in Article VI of the GRIC Constitution and Bylaws, may file a declaration of candidacy (DOC) for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge or Associate Judge.
- July 12, 2023: **DEADLINE DATE:** to submit a completed Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) application to the Tribal Elections Office by 5:00 pm.
- July 13, 2023: Declaration of Candidacy forms are routed to ascertain qualifications to Enrollment, Law Office and Human Resources Departments.
- July 19, 2023: Special Election Board meeting re: candidate residency requirements
- August 2, 2023: At the first Council meeting in August, the Community Council shall certify that all candidates for General Office meet the qualifications set forth in the Community Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community
- August 7, 2023: **VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES** 5 PM for the Primary Election
- August 16, 2023: **ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS** for the Primary Election; absentee ballots will be available upon request from your District Judge or the Tribal Elections office.
- September 18, 2023: **ABSENTEE VOTING CLOSSES** for the Primary Election; absentee ballots must be accepted by your District Judge or the Tribal Elections office before 5:00 p.m..
- September 19, 2023: **GRIC PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**  
Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7; ALL POLLING SITES OPEN: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- September 22, 2023: **PROTEST PERIOD ENDS:** any registered voter can file a protest to the election in writing to the Election Board Chairperson, by 5:00 p.m.
- October 4, 2023: Certification of the Primary Election results shall be conducted by the Community Council

For any questions regarding this schedule, please call the Tribal Elections office @ (520) 562-9735 or 562-9758





Governor  
**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Monica Antone**

Community Council  
Representatives

**District 1**  
Arzie Hogg  
Joey Whitman

**District 2**  
Ann M. Lucas

**District 3**  
Avery White  
Rodney Jackson

**District 4**  
Jennifer Allison  
Regina Antone  
Christopher Mendoza  
Nada Celaya

**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,  
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# GRIC Police Department Facility Progress Tour

**Velia Moncada**  
Gila River Indian News

It's been seven months since the groundbreaking of the new forthcoming Gila River Police Department (GRPD) facility in District 3. Attorney of Counsel Steven J.W. Heeley from the Rothstein Donatelli Law and Project Manager Tyler Bivins at Core Construction hosted a progress tour on June 5, demonstrating the projected artistic features and amenities the building will contain.

The new building itself will include a police records room, report writing room, the chief of police's office, break room, evi-

dence warehouse, dispatch center, conference rooms, office space, an armory, a quiet space, healing garden, lobby, fitness gym and a support building that will house the gang unit and kennels for the k-9 units.

"It's a pleasure to be able to contribute to this project. It's been something that most people have been waiting for, for the past 20-25 years," said Heeley during the tour. The new facility would be Heeley's second project working with the Core Construction team in the Community.

Funding for the new development was made possible by utilizing the 105 (l) lease program to



**Hallway of the new Gila River Police Department facilities during construction, that will feature a calendar stick showcasing the GRPD law enforcement history.** Velia Moncada/GRIN



**Ongoing construction of the support building for the Gila River Police Department facility that will hold the k-9 unit and Gang unit.** Velia Moncada/GRIN

fund construction. The Casa Blanca and Gila Crossing Community schools used the same program to fund the new campuses.

One similar feature the Casa Blanca Community School and the new GRPD facility will have in common is the use of solar tubes that capture natural sunlight and distribute the light through the interior parts of the buildings. Other solar features will include shaded parking that will contain solar panels, contributing to forty percent of the building's power.

The building aspires to connect the new GRPD building and the Community as it will also showcase many cultural and artistic features throughout.

The healing garden will feature an eagle sculpture by Community artist Aaron Sabori. The facilities floor will incorporate mosaic stone pieces depicting the flow of the Gila River through all seven districts. Another feature will be a photo collage created comprised of photos from Community artists. Lastly, the new facility will include a culturally appropriate calendar stick, displaying a Gila River law enforcement timeline through the decades.

The Gila River Police Department will use the newly constructed facility by mid-March 2024, as the construction will be complete by the end of February of the same year.

## GRIC Department of Environmental Quality Public Notice of Ambient Air Monitoring Network Review

Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §58.10 Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Program (AQP) will make its annual monitoring network plan available for public inspection prior to submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Annual Ambient Monitoring Network Review and Data Summary present changes to and data collected from the air quality monitoring network during calendar year 2022. This document will be available for review at the GRIC DEQ office located at 168 Skill Center Dr., Sacaton, AZ 85147, and on the AQP website at [www.gricdeq.org](http://www.gricdeq.org) under Public Notices. Public comments may be submitted in writing to GRIC DEQ Air Quality, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, Arizona, 85147. Additional information is available from GRIC DEQ Air Quality, 168 Skill Center Dr., Sacaton, AZ 85147, the AQP website ([www.gricdeq.org](http://www.gricdeq.org) under Air), or by calling 520-562-2234.

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**- GRIN Staff**

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# FITNESS & WELLNESS

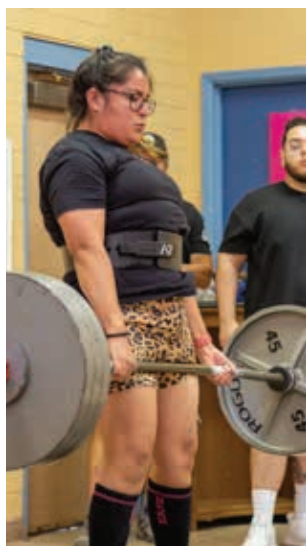
## TRW hosts Deadlift Challenge, brings Community together

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community's Tribal Recreation and Wellness (TRW) hosted its first Deadlift Challenge on Friday, May 26, at the old service center building in District 4, where 20 men and women from GRIC and other tribal communities competed.

"I loved everybody coming together. This is the first time I actually did a deadlift challenge and we brought other tribes," said Rheanna Jackson, TRW fitness instructor.

She added, "It's nice to see everyone come together and cheer everybody on, especially in the Native community where lifting is not a big thing."



**Martika Yazzie takes the Women's Middle Weight Champion title during the 2023 Deadlift Challenge.** Emma Hughes/GRIN

Jackson, 22, is among TRW's youngest fitness instructors along with Tristan Natani, 21 and Javonni Molina, 22, who teamed up to plan the event that brought out Community members and participants from the Tohono O'odham Nation, Ak-Chin Indian Community, and Colorado River Indian Tribes.

"I love seeing people pulling, 500, 600 lbs, it's just something about it," Natani said, "We put these

out and for me, I was one of these people just coming out to lift. But now, I'm living my dream as a fitness instructor and I hope that I could hopefully be a great trainer, if not, probably the greatest."

Natani added, "I'm glad to see the Community come together to watch everyone pretty much hit their maxes, we're all a big family and it amazes me that a huge number of lifters come out because here on the reservation there's a lot of lifters who want to come out and do something."

In May, TRW also hosted a bench press challenge. However, the deadlift event brought out more spectators and participants as they tested their strength for the lightweight, middleweight, and heavyweight champion titles.

"We are the ones that are going to be taking over all the strength series," said Jackson, "We're always available at the wellness center if you need help or if you any questions, we're available to answer."

Participants tested their strength with a single lift of the different weights of their choosing before judges, that also critiqued lifting form and completion of the lift.

Mavis Jackson, 63, from District 5 – Casa Blanca, successfully completed all three of her reps, lifting 135, 185, and 200 pounds. She started lifting ten years ago when she began working on becoming healthier and more active.

"I started off by running first and then I did half marathons, 5ks and 10Ks, then I got started in CrossFit and then I wanted to do more with strength," said Mavis, who eventually started going to the Wellness Center and working out. She embraced the lifting community after being introduced to lifting events and challenges.

"What I like about the

Wellness Center is that they always give me that confidence and that encouragement, showing me how to make it better for myself strength wise," said Mavis, who enjoys weightlifting and does her best to participate in the events.

Jackson's three grandchildren, also attended the event to support her. "I really enjoy it because it also teaches my grandchildren that you're never too old to keep trying and keep working on yourselves."

She said that because of her age, she frequently meets new people and fellow lifters.

"They talk about how they see me and they get inspired and they go ahead and they try, they start doing it themselves, and that's what I really encourage them to continue to lift, sometimes we feel like we're not strong enough, but it's all within ourselves, that's where that strength comes."

She said the benefits from weightlifting had increased her overall health, strength, and has also become a great stress reliever.



**Stephen "Scooba" Lyons and Tiffany Boni are awarded the Men's Heavy Weight and Women's Heavy Weight Champion title and trophy on May 26.** Photos courtesy of Tribal Recreation & Wellness.

*Winners for the 2023 Deadlift Challenge:*

### Women's Light Weight

• Champion – Marla Lemos – Final Pull 224lbs

### Women's Middle Weight

• Champion, Martika Yazzie – Final Pull 325lbs

• 2nd Place, Malarie Pablo – Final Pull 285lbs

• 3rd Place, Stephanie B-Antone – Final Pull

240lbs

### Women's Heavy Weight

• Champion, Tiffany Boni – Final Pull 295lbs

• 2nd Place, Whitney Sharpe – Final Pull 275lbs

• 3rd Place, Rita Mendivil – Final Pull 205lbs

### Men's Light Weight

• Champion, Ryan Yucupisio – Final Pull 455lbs

• 2nd Place, Hihn Le – Final Pull 455lbs

• 3rd Place, Troy Marrietta – Final Pull 175lbs

### Men's Middle Weight

• Champion, Latrell Begay – Final Pull 175lbs

### Men's Heavy Weight

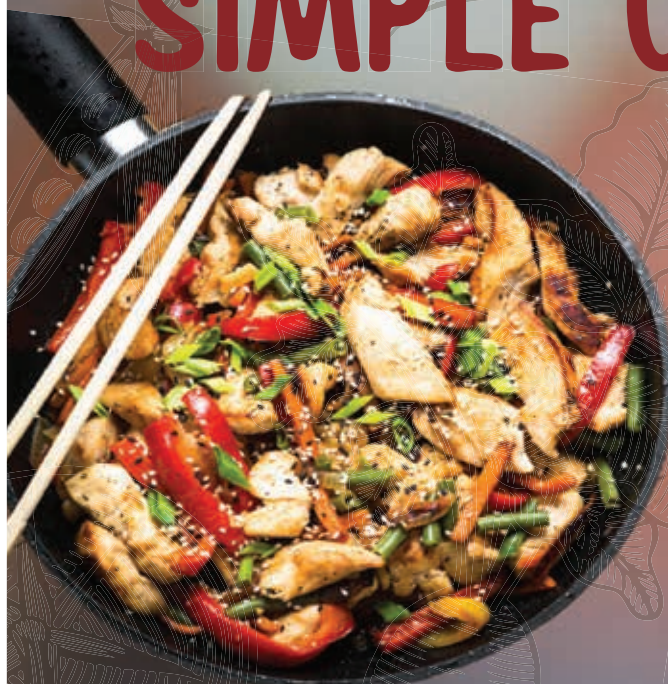
• Champion, Stephen "Scooba" Lyons – Final Pull 630lbs

• 2nd Place, Craig Antone – Final Pull 570lbs

• 3rd Place, Shuk Juk "Omi" – Final Pull 465lbs

JUNE 2023 – MONTHLY RECIPE BROUGHT TO YOU BY GRIC NUTRITION COALITION

# SIMPLE CHICKEN Stirfry



### Ingredients:

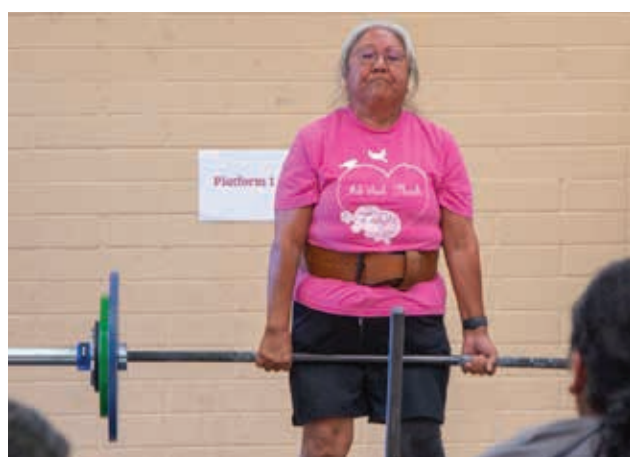
- 1 cup of low sodium chicken broth
- 2 tbsp of lower sodium soy sauce
- 2 tsp of Cornstarch
- 1 clove garlic (minced or grated)
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 (14-oz) bag of frozen stir-fry vegetables
- 1 1/2 cup of cooked chicken

### Directions:

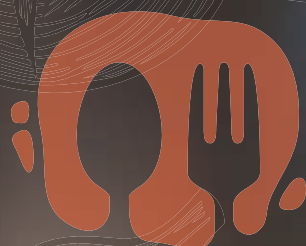
1. Add olive oil to a non-stick skillet over high heat. Add the frozen vegetables and sauté for 5-7 minutes.
2. While the vegetables are sautéing, whisk the broth, soy sauce, corn starch, garlic and black pepper in a bowl until combined.
3. Add the chicken and sauce to the pan and sauté another 5-7 minutes, until chicken is heated through and sauce is thickened.
4. Serve or let cool then store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.

### Nutrition Facts:

Serving size: 1 1/2 cups, Calories 180, Total Fat 8g, Cholesterol 45mg, Sodium 380mg, Total Carbs 9g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Total Sugars 3g, Added Sugars 0g, Protein 18g



**Mavis Jackson completes her deadlift on May 26.** Emma Hughes/GRIN.





# Saguaro Fruit Harvest presentation at the Huhugam Heritage Center

**Velia Moncada**

Gila River Indian News

The Huhugam Heritage Center hosted a baithaj presentation on June 7 from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Gary Owens, a museum manager at the Huhugam Ki: Museum from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, presented key points in making a good batch of Ha:san Sithol (saguaro fruit jam) with the Baidaj (saguaro fruit) from his personal life experiences.

20 people were in at-

tendance, eagerly awaited to learn more about the baithaj harvest process.

“Growing up, my mom would take us out to pick the cactus fruit, so we thought this would be good information for us,” said Deborah Ramon, who is from Phoenix; however, her family is from the Tohono O’odham Nation. She describes that her mother also would harvest when she was a kid and would explain how all the adults would gather after the harvest and drink the wine they produced from the

baithaj

Gary Owens, shared his presentation “Do Wihim heg Ha:shan Baihidag” (Time to gather saguaro fruit) where he credits his summers spent with the late Stella Tucker from the Tohono O’odham Nation. Tucker shared her knowledge of Saguaro Fruit Harvesting in a camp in the Saguaro National Forest from the 1990s until 2019. Tucker guided Owens to form his understanding of the baithaj harvest today.

Owens describes the harvest as hard work and that “the commitment is your decision.” What attendees learned was the tools used to pick called ku’ipad. The staff is made of vap’pai of the cactus (saguaro rib), and on the top of the vap’pai is a shegoi cross hook. The best fruit to pick is the greener closed pink fruit.

The best times to pick are between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. When it comes to cooking and making a beneficial harvest of three quarts, Owens recommends gathering at least 5 gallons of fruit. The good thing about baithaj is that it can be stored in the refrigerator and used later.

After the fruit is collected, one needs to scoop out the jun (the inside of the fruit) using the stem, then place it inside a pot. While



Attendees listen to the presentation by Gary Owens at the Huhugam Heritage Center. Velia Moncada/GRIN

boiling, it is advisable to continue boiling until the foam disappears. It is crucial to stir the mixture regularly to prevent the juice from burning. The recommended time for cooking is 45 minutes.

After cooking, it is important to strain the pulp from the fruit and the seeds. The fiber from the jun (inside of the fruit) is left out in the sun to be dried for two days and stored for use in the winter. After separating the liquid and pulp, the second cooking will take an hour to two hours, with occasional stirring to remove

the water from the fruit. As the syrup gets ready, swirls of curls will be inside the syrup. “It is at this point you don’t want anyone bothering you. It is just you and the sithol,” said Owens during his preparation portion of his presentation.

Shirley Jackson, the director of the Huhugam Heritage Center, mentioned that for the past two years, the Huhugam Heritage Center could not partner with District 4 in their usual baithaj harvest due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Heritage Center plans to host a Community

Harvest with Gary Owens at the end of June. “I’m hopeful that other people are going to go out and harvest not just with us but with their families,” said Jackson.



The process of what the Has:shan sithol looks like as it turns into syrup. GRIN Photo



A ku’ipad assembled with vapai (saguaro rib) knocks down the baithaj from atop a saguaro cactus. GRIN Photo

# WIOA Summer Youth orientation instills pride in young work force

**Velia Moncada**

Gila River Indian News

On Monday, June 6, Gila River’s Employment and Training held its first of three work readiness trainings for its summer youth work program at the District 3 multipurpose building. Thirty-five students participated in the June 6 training—however, 125 youth registered for this year’s summer work program.

The program grants youth the ability to gain real-world job experiences and skills to accommodate their future careers within the Community. The Work Readiness Training is a re-

quirement for the program for the youth to gain skills they can exercise in their assigned placements.

Beginning at 9 a.m., training specialist James Tree from Employment and Training incorporated workshops for the group to demonstrate employable skills, such as navigating the world of work, making career decisions, and being professional in a work environment.

Teen worker Aryel Preston Quyo, District 3, attended the Youth Work Readiness training as she prepared to work in District 6. She felt the training was

necessary to prepare for her work program and future. “I’m learning how to be more professional by making more eye contact and not slouching during interviews,” said Quyo.

Later, at 12:00 p.m. special guest Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis arrived to greet the summer youth workers.

“Each and every one of you now are going to provide services to our Community members, and as Community members, you will see both sides now,” said Gov. Lewis in his remarks to the incoming workforce. As the youth prepares to provide services

throughout the Community in different avenues of professional departments, programs, and industries. Gov. Lewis stressed for the workers to “Take pride that

you are providing services to your Community.”

After the youth workers complete their seven-week employment, Gila River’s Employment and Training

will host a well-deserved banquet on July 14 to honor the youth participants’ efforts and achievements over the summer.



Students listen attentively to the guest presenters at the WIOA summer youth worker orientation. Velia Moncada/GRIN

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16675 S. Saint Johns Rd. Laveen, AZ 85339

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# Ha:shañ Baithaj Mashath, Haichu

## Mu:val (Insects) 2023

**Submission by**  
Huhugam Heritage Center

The name for this month refers to the ripening of the baithaj (cactus fruit) atop the ha:shañ (saguaro cactus). This natural event represents the beginning of the annual cycle of Life recognized by our Hekiu O’otham and it’s a time of renewal for our earth. Other natural events occur to remind us that another year has begun. One, is the emergence of kok’thpol (cicadas) and their buzzing drone

from the mesquite trees reminds us that the hot season has arrived. Some O’otham may still remember eating these insects as a snack. Certain O’otham would catch a kok’thpol, put it on a stick, and roast it with a kitchen match or small fire before consuming. Another, is the approaching clouds on the distant horizon to the south that will soon bring much needed rain. There are also the “haichu mu:val” (insects) that we often encounter in our daily rou-

tines. To most of us, they are a nuisance, but still they are here to play their roles in our natural environment. We employ our defenses against va:mug (mosquitoes) when we are outside in the early mornings and evenings. We apply mosquito repellent before going outdoors. Mosquito fogging operations scheduled to counter the West Nile virus, which has made its way into our community. We experience an increase in thothoñ (ants) activity, as they make their way into our yards and homes. The village of S-thothoñig (Place of many ants) is named for the industriousness of the O’otham whom live there. Thothoñ are most noticeable when they morph during the mating season. During this time they grow wings and mate while airborne and are most troublesome when they splatter on our windshields as we travel on the roadways. In this state of reproduction they are called

a’anam thothoñ (winged, or flying ants). Another insect important to us are wi:mäl (velvet ant) there are several species that are colored differently, some are white, yellow and reddish. When we were young, our Elders taught us to show respect to them when encountered and to say “Eñ Hajuñ!” (My Relation!). They are most often observed, as they scurry along in our yards and the open desert in search of food. In our gardens we might encounter a gakimchul (praying mantis). These beneficial insects feed on other insects, especially those that damage the plants in our gardens. This month’s word-match will focus on insects that we encounter during the summer months. We encourage you to speak with an Elder, or Speaker and learn to say their names. Insect names may be slightly different between the villages. We also remind you to be careful around the insects that

**Match the Haichu Mu:val (Insect) O’otham name with its Picture! 2023**

wi:mäl	
thothoñ	
va:mug	
nakshel	
gakimchul	
a’anam thothoñ	

Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

sting or bite. Educate your children about the harmful insects in our natural environment.

*A special Thank You to community Elders for sharing their knowledge of haichu mu:val (Insects) that made this article possible.*

*Additional source related from At the Desert’s Green Edge: An Ethnobotany of the Gila River Pima, Amadeo Rea, 1997, University of Arizona Press.*

**Word Match Solution on Page 10**

# Respect and admiration unfolds at Memorial Day Service

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

The Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51 and Auxiliary Unit 51 presented their annual Memorial Day service on May 29 in District 1. The hallmark event honors the men and women who have lost their lives during active military service.

Gila River Indian Com-

munity members and guests took part in a one/two-mile walk along Blackwater Road before a wreath-laying ceremony and military honors at the veteran’s memorial monuments just outside the Post 51 Veteran’s Annex.

Then the program moved to the District 1 Multipurpose Building, where Post 51 Commander David Anderson welcomed ev-

eryone, followed by guest speakers, including Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and U.S. Army veteran Lancelet Lewis, who paid their respects and shared their appreciation for those who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Representatives from Gila River’s fire department, emergency medical services, police, Auxiliary 51,

and Purple Heart recipient Gary Rodriguez came together to create a candle-lit memorial table honoring their fallen comrades. The memorial ceremony included a traditional prayer song performed by Vipismal Neidam (Hummingbird Singers).



**Lt. Gov. Monica Antone welcomes guests and thanks all veterans for their service at the District 1 Multipurpose Building.** Emma Hughes/GRIN



**A flag is raised at half mast in honor of those who lost their lives in service to the country at the Memorial Day Service in District 1.** Emma Hughes/GRIN



**Purple Heart recipient Gary Rodriguez, District 1, salutes the memorial table set inside the District 1 Gymnasium.** Emma Hughes/GRIN

**Presents**

## Veterans Round Table

TOPICS to be discussed by the VA

- PVAHS Rural Health
- PVAHCS SUDTP Traditional Healing
  - PACT Act
  - Toxic Exposures
- SAVAHCS Native American Advocate Program
- Co-Payment exemptions
- Lunch Provided

**June 27<sup>th</sup> 2023** | **12PM – 3PM** | **D5 Multipurpose Bldg**

For more info: Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037 Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4383 Kimberly Skelton 520-610-7644



# Students awarded, first responders honored at Vah-Ki promotion

**Emma Hughes**

Gila River Indian News

Vah-Ki Head Start promoted nearly 20 students during a celebration held on Wednesday, May 24, with parents and loved ones at the head start center in District 5.

Class teachers Ms. Neva Felix and Ms. Corey Whitman, reflected on the year with a video presentation and award ceremony shared with the students' families who will be moving on to kindergarten.

"We were really happy to be back in November," said Felix, "I think the kids were happy to be back, finally. There was a lot of learning to be done at the beginning and they did it, they all came together and they grew."

Felix explained students' unique experiences after the COVID-19 pandemic, attending head start and adjusting emotionally and socially with their friends and the everyday classroom routine. She

said students and staff faced challenges upon returning and adjusting to being in person.

"With Ms. Corey's help and the rest of the staff, we did it! We were short staffed, but we made it work and coming to the end and having them go to kindergarten and with the parents work too, having them come to school every day was a plus. I think the kids really enjoyed it and we had a good year," Felix said.

The promoting class paid special tribute to all first responders with a celebration theme that honors their public safety work and encouraged students to dress up as first responders.

Several Gila River Police Department officers joined the festivities as guest first responders. Then the students were surprised by a visit from the Disney character Buzz Lightyear who accompanied the officers. The group congratulated the students and presented them with goody bags during the promotion.

"I thought it was great," said Whitman, "The kids dressing up as first responders and just talking about how the last two years have been, how they [first responders] been around, we see the ambulance, the police go by every day with the siren."

Whitman said they often discuss with the chil-

dren, what could have happened or why the police are in the area, "They know if somebody's going fast, the policeman is going to go after them and give them a ticket," said Whitman as an example.

Whitman taught for the first time this year, and she has found it a fulfilling experience to work with her

students in the classroom. She has developed a strong bond with them, making her feel like they are part of her own family.

"So me growing in a classroom like that is a very fulfilling experience. It's very new to me, but I loved it. I love working with children," said Whitman.



Officers from the Gila River Police Department pose with a Vah-Ki Head Start promoter at the May 24 promotion ceremony. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Students and family at the Vah-Ki Head Start promotion where students dressed as first responders. Emma Hughes/GRIN

## From the Front Page

Outside of the jerseys and ORIGINATIV games, the Phoenix Suns have continued past the regular season and strengthened the collaboration with the Community through this project.

Shawn Martinez from the Navajo Nation emphasized the importance of seizing the opportunity to build skills and agility to succeed in the game. He urged the youth present to consider this a significant opportunity they should take advantage of.

As part of the festivi-

ties, Mark Gretter, Phoenix Suns director of youth basketball, and Ish Wainright conducted a basketball clinic for youth from District 5.

"This is unbelievable, it tells you a lot about the Phoenix Suns organization, I'm excited to be a part of this and as a player I'm excited to see this today," said Wainright. This event was his first opportunity to interact and work with Native youth. He was happy to share his talents with the Community's youth. "This is a blessing and I'm looking to be a part of this and look forward to doing more in the future."



Shawn Martinez asks one youth to model the Phoenix Suns City Edition uniform for everyone. Kyle Knox/GRIN



District 5 youth are joined by the Phoenix Suns Gorilla, Phoenix Mercury's Scorch, Ish Wainright, and members of the Phoenix Suns Dancers for a group photo before the basketball clinic begins. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Youth run basketball drills and exercises at the clinic on June 9. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Gov. Lewis shares encouraging words for to the youth in attendance. Kyle Knox/GRIN





# HEADLINES

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis  
Governor



Monica Antone  
Lt. Governor

### Gov. Lewis Spotlights Tribal Contributions to County, State, and Region at MAG



Members at the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) applaud Gov. Lewis for his work and dedication to MAG. Velia Moncada/GRIN

**Velia Moncada**

Gila River Indian News

In his last meeting as chairman of the economic development committee for the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis spotlighted tribal and regional efforts that have benefited the region on June 6. The meeting concluded the one-year term for Gov. Lewis serving in his role.

During the gathering,

Gov. Lewis outlined how efficiently MAG has helped boost business in the county and beyond through tribal gaming, the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority, a new Phoenix Suns jersey honoring the state's 22 federally recognized tribes, and more.

Judy Ferreira, executive director of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association (AIGA), and Robert Miguel, chairman of the Ak-Chin

Indian Community and an AIGA board member, discussed how Arizona tribes and Native nations operating gaming and casinos had shared over \$1.98 billion with the state through the Arizona Benefits Fund. The contributions support education, emergency services, trauma care, local governments, tourism, and wildlife conservation.

Also, Elizabeth Antone, the interim general manager

of Wildhorse Pass Development Authority (WHPDA), gave an update on continuing developments on the 3,300 acres of tribal lands within GRIC that WHPDA oversees in Maricopa and Pinal counties. They include a grocery store in Sacaton, construction for a new Gila River Arts and Crafts center in District 5, and a new Gila River Sand and Gravel production facility in District 1- Blackwater.

In addition, Shawn Martinez, senior director of live presentation for the Phoenix Suns, and Graham Wincott, senior marketing director with the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury, reported on the ORIGINATIV program that honored Arizona's 22 tribal nations with a special City Edition uniform.

The design incorporates various aspects of tribal cultures, including a medicine wheel with 22 feathers and 22 arrowheads and a turquoise color representing the "living stone" or "protective stone." The team hosted 10 ORIGINATIV nights featuring an Indigenous theme with representatives from the 22 Tribal

Nations in Arizona.

At the end of the meeting, members of the MAG offered words of gratitude. They thanked Gov. Lewis for his dedication and service as MAG's economic development committee chairman.

"I wanted to show all the good things the Community is doing as good partners with the surrounding cities, regions, and county," Gov. Lewis said during his final remarks. "It shows other tribes that we have the sophistication and the expertise to move forward in infrastructure projects and economic development."



Elizabeth Antone, the interim general manager of the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority (WHPDA) and Governor Stephen Roe Lewis pose for a picture at the MAG meeting. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Shawn Martinez, senior director of live presentation and Graham Wincott, senior marketing Director with the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury present the ORIGINATIV program at the MAG meeting. Velia Moncada/GRIN

### Dr. Jan Goodall Premieres new Documentary at Arizona Science Center

**Kyle Knox**

Gila River Indian News

Dr. Jane Goodall, a renowned conservationist, premiered her new doc-



Dr. Jane Goodall reflects on her life's work and how it is reflected in her new documentary "Reasons for Hope." Kyle Knox/GRIN

umentary film, "Reasons for Hope" at the Arizona Science Center on Friday, June 2. The event included an evening program and

dialogue with Dr. Goodall, museum staff, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

"Reasons for Hope" is a film that showcases Dr. Goodall's optimistic outlook for the world and its inhabitants by taking viewers on a global journey. The film was created using the IMAX format and features four stories that highlight innovative solutions to environmental issues, the resilience of nature, the power of young people to drive change, and the unwavering determination of the human spirit.

Gov. Lewis served as a guest speaker. He opened the event by providing a land acknowledgment for audience members attending the premiere. Recognizing the importance of natural resources by the surrounding tribal nations in the region, Gov. Lewis shared the importance of the Gila and Salt Rivers and their connection to the O'otham and Pee-Posh.

"On this land, we the O'otham and Pee-Posh, we trace our connections to the

river and our ancestors, the Huhugam who constructed the water canals, a sacred footprint, which this modern-day city of Phoenix is built upon," said Gov. Lewis during his opening.

Connections to the natural environment and among people were critical themes for the night. It is also heavily shared in Dr. Goodall's new film.

Gov. Lewis said, "being here tonight shows how connected we are, through the land, and the people because we are still here and we remain connected to the land and humanity and Jane Goodall embodies this same Indigenous framework and has championed it around the world."

Later, Goodall took to the stage and spoke of the film's message and its profound impact on her and viewers.

"With this film my wish is that it inspires hope, that is my mission on this Earth, to give people hope, because without hope we're doomed," said Goodall.

"Reasons for Hope" is



Gov. Lewis shares a land acknowledgment for the opening reception for the premiere of "Reasons to Hope." Kyle Knox/GRIN

screening in IMAX at the Irene P. Flinn Theater at the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix. For showtimes

and more information, visit [azscience.org](http://azscience.org).



# New and returning Council Members take Oath of Office

**Kyle Knox**

Gila River Indian News

On Wednesday, June 7, the GRIC Community Council swore in newly elected and re-elected Community Council members.

The ceremony was held for Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6, where Chief Judge Anthony Hill administered the oath of office. Representative Joey Whitman of District 1, Representative Joseph Manuel Jr. of District 3, Representatives Jennifer Allison and Lalena Jackson of District 4, Representatives James De La Rosa and Franklin Pablo Sr. of District 5, and Representative Terrance B. Evans of District 6 all took the oath of office.

Following the ceremony, families and attendees of the June 7 Community Council meeting formed a receiving line to congratulate each representative.

Then, a brief reception took place in the Governance Center lobby.



District 6 Representative Terrance B. Evans, District 5 Representative Franklin Pablo Sr., District 5 Representative James De La Rosa, District 4 Representative Jennifer Allison, District 4 Representative Lalena Jackson, District 3 Representative Joseph Manuel Jr., and District 1 Representative Joey Whitman at the closing of the swearing-in ceremony on June 7. Kyle Knox/GRIN



On June 7, the following were sworn into office (top left) re-elected District 1 Council Representative Joey Whitman, (top right) newly elected District 4 Council Representative Lalena Jackson, (middle left) re-elected District 5 Council Representative Franklin Pablo Sr., (middle right) newly elected District 4 Council Representative Jennifer Allison, (lower left) re-elected District 5 Council Representative James De La Rosa, and (lower right) re-elected District 6 Council Representative Terrance B. Evans Kyle Knox/GRIN



**From the Front Page**

DEQ's expansion efforts in their newly located area. "It's really cool because we've had a lot of temporary homes...we finally have a permanent place."

The Pollinator Garden covers over 9,200 square feet of the DEQ's facility grounds with 15 species of plants indigenous to the Southwest and most of which are indigenous to the plant wildlife in the Gila River Indian Community. Species planted for the event include Churparosa, Globe Mallow, Goldeneye, Yellow Bells, Mohave Sage, and more. Plants rooted in the Pollinator Garden encourage animal pollinators to visit, such as bumble bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other animals that contribute a vital role in plant reproduction.



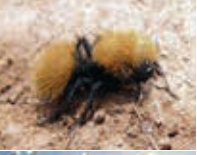





**Elenor Lynch (Middle) with DEQ employees and volunteers digging holes for the plants at the new DEQ headquarters. Velia Moncada/GRIN**



**Plants placed in the area that they will be planted in at the DEQ facility. Velia Moncada/GRIN**

**Match the Haichu Mu:val (Insect) SOLUTION! 2023**

<i>wi:mal</i>	→	
<i>thothoñ</i>	→	
<i>va:mug</i>	→	
<i>nakshel</i>	→	
<i>gakimchul</i>	→	
<i>a'anam thothoñ</i>	→	

Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

**Public Notice**  
**NOTICE AND CALL OF SPECIAL ELECTION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SACATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 18 OF PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA:**  
 A special election has been called by, and will be held in, Sacaton Elementary School District No. 18 of Pinal County, Arizona (the "District"), on November 7, 2023 ("Election Day"). The purpose of the election is to permit the qualified electors of the District to vote on authorizing the District to lease one or more parcels of land for a term not to exceed 99 years and to construct, improve, equip and furnish one or more buildings on such land.  
 The election will be a mailed ballot only election. No polling places will be provided. Ballots will be mailed to qualified electors residing within the District no earlier than 26 days prior to the election and no later than 15 days before the election. Ballots must be received or dropped off at one of the designated ballot drop box locations as designated by the Pinal County Elections Department and as set forth in the informational pamphlet and/or the ballot no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. The informational pamphlet will be mailed to the homes of qualified electors. If a ballot is lost, spoiled, destroyed or not received by the elector, the elector may receive a replacement ballot at the ballot replacement locations designated by the Pinal County Elections Department.  
 The last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in this election is Monday, October 9, 2023.  
 Any qualified elector is eligible for early voting. Early voting materials may be obtained by contacting the Pinal County Elections Department, 188 S. Main Street, Coolidge, AZ 85128; telephone: (520) 866-7550. For more information about the foregoing, please review A.R.S. § 15-491 or contact the Sacaton Elementary School District, 150 Skill Center Drive, Sacaton, AZ 85147; telephone: (520) 562-8600.

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**  
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
 IN THE MATTER OF: AUTO NOW FINANCIAL, Petitioner/Plaintiff vs. JOSEPHINE FAYE ESCALANTE ET AL., Respondent/Defendant  
 CASE Number: CV-2023-0050-MO  
 CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING  
 Please take notice that a(n) Review Hearing has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.  
**Review Hearing**  
 Tuesday, August 1, 2023  
 at 11:00 AM in Courtroom I,  
 AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,  
 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.  
 Given under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.  
 DATED this 12th day of June, 2023

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**  
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
 IN THE MATTER OF: The Estate of Philbert Leon Howard Jr.  
 CASE Number: PB-2021-0012-DE  
 This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may be ordered.  
**Motion Hearing**  
 3rd day of August, 2023 at 2:00 PM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Sheri L Cassa  
 AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI  
 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ 85147  
 DATED: Wednesday, June 7, 2023

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**  
 IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
 IN THE MATTER OF: Santiago Vavages Rivera  
 CASE Number: JC-2023-0096-AD  
 PETITION TO ADOPT A MINOR AND REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE  
**Answer/Response Hearing**  
 July 6, 2023 at 11:00 AM  
 AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI  
 721 West Seed Farm Road  
 Sacaton, AZ 85147

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**  
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
 IN THE MATTER OF: Delora Griffeth vs. Edgar Mercado  
 CASE Number: FM-2023-0030-PT  
 This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may be ordered.  
**Answer/Response Hearing**  
 7th day of August, 2023  
 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom VII before the Honorable Charles Aragon  
 Westend Judicial Center, 4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ 85339  
 DATED Monday, May 15, 2023



# Efforts are underway to build American Indian Veterans Memorial

**Submitted by**  
Paula Pedene,  
Veterans Voice Column

Native Americans serve in the United States Armed Forces at five times the national average. For a community that has persevered through decades of challenges, Native Americans – also called American Indians – have remained steadfast in their defense of the United States as members of the Armed Forces for centuries. So, it is only natural they would wish to keep that military service heritage alive for future generations.

Kent Ware Sr., a highly decorated World War II veteran and respected elder of the Kiowa tribe, dreamed of building a memorial to honor the American Indian veterans of all wars. He founded the American Indian Veterans Memorial Organization (AIVMO) to provide a place for veterans, their families, loved ones, and survivors to gather and pay tribute to living and deceased military members. AIVMO was granted a site to build the Memorial at Steele Indian School Park under a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Phoenix, Parks, and Recreation Department.

Renowned Hopi artist, veteran, and Phoenix Indian School graduate Dennis Numekena designed the Memorial to capture the spirit of the eagle and incorporate the four elements of creation: fire, water, earth, and air. Using these ceremonial



elements in the design gives it a sense of American Indian spirituality to guide bringing the spirits of all beloved warriors home. The Memorial will be built at the west end of Steele Indian School Lake. The original architectural design has been altered slightly by Navajo architect Richard Begaye, a partner of SPS+Architecture, to fit the site better.

Although the original project lay dormant for years after Kent Ware Senior's death, his son Kent Ware is reviving the effort to build the Memorial, which costs about \$700,000.

"My dad was a top turret gun runner in a B17 World War II bomber. His military service was import-

ant to him, and he felt that since the Indian School was gone, he wanted his descendants to be able to recognize American Indian Veterans. We're working to keep his vision going," Ware says.

Their team has already raised \$350,000 to build

the Memorial. One of the key supporters is Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Vice President Ricardo Leonard. His tribe is contributing along with the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Gila River Indian Community, and the Fort

McDowell Yavapai Nation.

Individuals can support the Memorial by purchasing personalized bricks for \$150.00 each. These bricks, which can have up to three lines of inscription, will be laid in a particular area of the Memorial.

You can donate or purchase a brick for the AIVMO, a 501c3 nonprofit, by calling 480-951-2910 or going online at <https://aivmoaz.org/>.

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
IN RE Case: RACHAEL MARIE FARKAS vs. BRANDON MINSHEW  
CASE Number: CV-2023-0112-RO  
CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may be ordered.

**Restraining Order Hearing**

21st day of July, 2023  
at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Sheri L Cassa  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,  
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ 85147  
DATED Friday, June 9, 2023

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF: AMANDA CELIA MITCHELL, Petitioner/  
Plaintiff vs. JAMES JAVON LEWIS, Respondent/Defendant  
CASE Number: FM-2023-0022-PT  
CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that a(n) Review Hearing has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

**Review Hearing**

Tuesday, August 1, 2023  
at 10:30 AM in Courtroom I,  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,  
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.  
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.  
DATED this 12th day of June, 2023

**Help for AHCCCS American Indian Health Program Members**



**2-1-1**  
**ARIZONA**

**If you are in immediate danger, call 911**

If you are, or know of, an AHCCCS member who lives in a sober living home or residential facility and you need help, please tell AHCCCS.

**Get Help With Health Care Services**

Call 2-1-1 and then press 7.

**Report Abuse**

If you or a loved one were mistreated by a provider: (602) 417-4885 or email [CQM@azahcccs.gov](mailto:CQM@azahcccs.gov).

**Report Provider Fraud**

It is illegal for someone to offer gift cards, meals, cash, or other gifts in exchange for Medicaid services.

- In Arizona: (602) 417-4045
- Toll-free outside of Arizona Only: 888-ITS-NOT-OK or 888-487-6686





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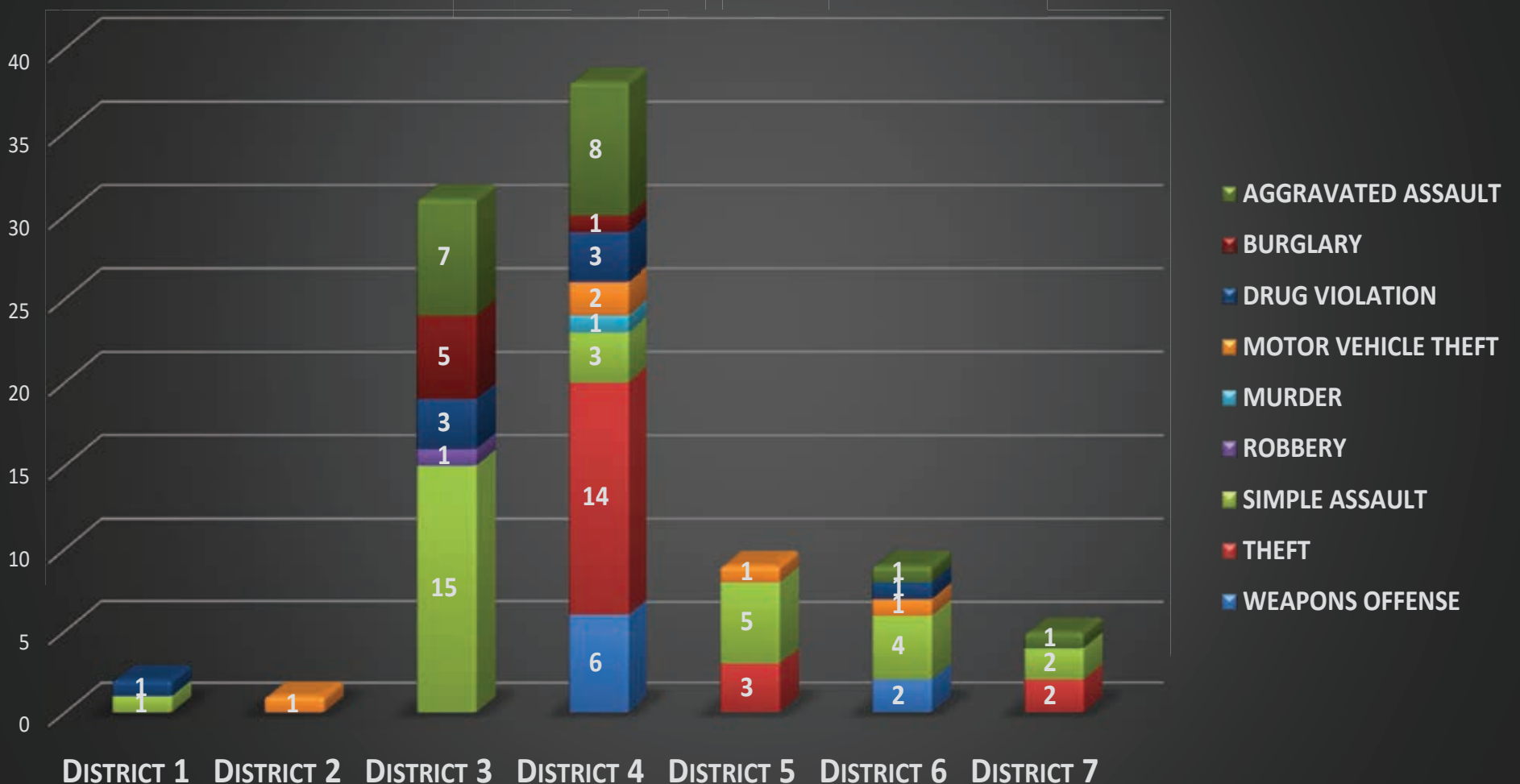
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## Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

COMMUNITY WIDE CRIMES  
(MAY 25 - JUNE 12, 2023)





# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • June 7, 2023

**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, June 7, 2023, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:05 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone

**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- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr. (10:28); D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison, Lalena Jackson (10:28); D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr. (10:28); D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:09), Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4- Nada Celaya (Travel)

D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (Travel)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS #1 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL, DISPENSE REPORT #2, AND TABLE RESOLUTION #2 PENDING G&MSC REVIEW

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #1 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED & RE-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS**

District 1 – Joey Whitman

District 3 – Joseph Manuel, Jr.

District 4 – Lalena Jackson

District 4 – Jennifer Allison

District 5 – James De La Rosa

District 5 – Franklin Pablo, Sr.

District 6 – Terrance B. Evans

CHIEF JUDGE ANTHONY HILL ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO EACH OF THE NEWLY AND RE-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

(15-MINUTE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE GOVERNANCE CENTER LOBBY)

[GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15 MIN RECESS. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 10:28 A.M.]

GOVERNOR LEWIS STATED FOR THE RECORD THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE NOW SEATED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

1. First Things First Introduction

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Ember Tahy

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**REPORTS**

\*1. 1st & 2nd Quarter Budget for American Legion Haskell Osife Antone Post 51

Presenter: David Anderson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Gila River Indian Irrigation and Drainage District – March 2023 And April 2023 Monthly Reports

Presenter: Ronald Allison

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. A Resolution Related To Waiving Any Additional Compensation Due To The Community Pursuant To Resolutions GR-83-16 And GR-28-19 For A Permanent Irrigation Easement And A Temporary Construction Easement Granted To The United States Of America For Reach Westside IE And Westside IF And Associated Laterals On Portions Of Community-Owned Interests In Allotted Trust Land And Community Trust Lands Located Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: David DeJong

APPROVED

>2. A Resolution Approving The Memo-

randum Of Understanding Between Lone Butte Development, L.L.C. And The Gila River Indian Community Regarding Business Lease 42001168349 And The Calculation Of Net Operating Income For Purposes Of Calculating Rent (EDSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Esther Manuel, Karen Park

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ORDINANCES**

1. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Amends Ordinance GR-01-13 And Enacts The Amendment To Title 8, Chapter 4 Of The Gila River Indian Community Code (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Emmanuel Antelo, Tamatha Villar

APPROVED

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Community Treasurer Appointment

Presenter: Community Council

GARY T. MIX APPOINTED

2. Community Council Secretary Appointment

Presenter: Community Council

SHANNON WHITE APPOINTED

3. Government & Management Standing Committee Appointment One (1) Council Seat

Presenter: Community Council

AVERY WHITE APPOINTED

4. Health & Social Standing Committee Appointment Two (2) Council Seats

Presenter: Community Council

JOEY WHITMAN AND LALENA JACKSON APPOINTED

5. Natural Resources Standing Committee Appointment Two (2) Council Seats

Presenters: Community Council

FRANKLIN PABLO, SR. AND JOSEPH MANUEL, JR. APPOINTED

6. Legislative Standing Committee Appointment Two (2) Council Seats

Presenter: Community Council

JAMES DE LA ROSA AND JOSEPH MANUEL, JR. APPOINTED

7. Education Standing Committee Ap-

pointment Two (2) Council Seats

Presenter: Community Council  
TERRANCE EVANS AND JOEY WHITMAN APPOINTED

8. Cultural Resource Standing Committee Appointment Three (3) Council Seats

Presenter: Community Council  
JENNIFER ALLISON, LALENA JACKSON, AND JOSEPH MANUEL APPOINTED

9. Economic Development Standing Committee Appointment Two (2) Council Seats

Presenter: Community Council  
AVERY WHITE AND JAMES DE LA ROSA APPOINTED

10. Community Services Department Assessment Update (Executive Session) (H&SSC forwards to Council in Executive Session under Unfinished Business)

Presenters: Stephen Lewis, Monica Antone, Suzanne Jones, Michael Preston, Sunshine Manuel, Laurie Thomas, Jesse Crabtree

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AS INFORMATION

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Board Appointment for District 4 (LSC forwards the Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Board Appointment for Angelia Allison to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT ANGELIA ALLISON TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

2. Letter to Schedule a Gaming Commission Board and GRIC Council Orientation (LSC forwards to Council)

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

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE THE ORIENTATION ON JUNE 20, 2023 AT 12:00 P.M. AT THE GAMING COMMISSION OFFICE

**MINUTES**

1. April 5, 2023 (Regular)

APPROVED

2. May 17, 2023 (Regular)

APPROVED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE, LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE, CULTURAL RESOURCE STANDING COMMITTEE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT WILD HORSE PASS CASINO ON THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

- EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE WILL BE HOLDING A WORK SESSION AT THE SHERATON GRAND ON FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023 AT 8:00 A.M.

- HOUSING OWNERS TEAM MEETING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023 AT 1:00 P.M.

- CASINO EXPANSION OWNERS TEAM MEETING WILL BE HELD TODAY AT 1:00 P.M.

- INTERIM OVERSIGHT & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 AT 1:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:54 A.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

**CALL FOR FAMILY/HISTORICAL PHOTOS – BE A PART OF THE PROJECT!**

The Gila River Indian Community is excited to announce that the new GRIC Police Department is under way.

We are looking for your family and/or historical photos relating to the police department/policing in the Community.

We don't need to keep them as we just need to make digital copies of your photos. We can scan and return your photos to you, or we can accept digital files of your photos. They will be used solely for this project.

These photos can be of family members who were in the Police Department, of community events supported by the department, or any historical images prior to the formation of the department. Please email Laurie Post at [Lpost@TelaArt.com](mailto:Lpost@TelaArt.com) or call Laurie at 602-243-4300 x12.





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We know that in order to be successful in one's personal, educational, and professional life, we need to make good decisions and have a good network of support.

**The Phoenix Indian Center is here for you.**

We offer several programs to help support our urban American Indian families to increase communication, build community and prevent risky behaviors and promote healthy choices.

Find out what events and activities we have for youth and adults.



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**3 TO CHOOSE FROM**

**2020 TOYOTA  
TUNDRA**



**CREW MAX SR5**

**2021 KIA  
K5**



**TURBO!!!**

**2021 NISSAN  
ARMADA**



**Leather, Navigation**

**2020 KIA  
OPTIMA**



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**2016 FORD  
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**SPRING CLOSEOUT**

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**ONLY 6,000 MILES**

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GILA RIVER RESORTS & CASINOS  
**SANTAN MOUNTAIN**

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
PRE-OPENING & RIBBON CUTTING

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**  
**10AM**

**Casino Open Only to Gila River Indian Community Members\***

EVENT INCLUDES:

- Ribbon Cutting
- Traditional Dancers & Blessing
- Remarks by Community Leadership
- Samples from our Newest Dining Options
- Live Entertainment
- State Forty-Eight T-shirt Giveaway

\*MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OVER

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