



GRIC recognizes MMIP Awareness Day, addresses new important issues

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

It's been two years since the Gila River Indian Community signed an official proclamation in 2021, declaring May 5 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Day.

"Today, as a Community, we reflect on the past three years as we honor the MMIP victims and survivors," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, "On this day, Gila River established our own MMIP task force, which is led by our Office of General Counsel, Gila River Police Department, Tribal Social Services, Crime Victim Services, Behavioral Health, and many others who work together and understand that we all have a part to play, but it's not easy."

She shared that one of the biggest challenges has been jurisdiction and working with other law enforcement agencies, local towns, and cities.

In March 2023, Arizona Governor Kattie Hobbs signed an executive order to enact an official state task force to address this issue further.



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone addresses new issues related to MMIP Awareness Day, in a video to the Community on May 5. CPAO Photo

"Prior to the executive order, it was an ad hoc, which retrieved statistics on unreported missing persons jurisdiction with law enforcement agencies and compensation to victims and families," said Lt. Gov. Antone, who served on the committee.

She added, "The Gila River Indian community is actively working with multiple outside agencies to address all of these issues in order to stop this growing epidemic."

She referenced photos she keeps nearby her office desk of three young girls who have fallen victim to this crisis; Monique Pesqueria, Ashlynn Mike, and Rhia Almeida.

Ashlynn Mike was 11 years old when she was kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and brutally beaten. She was left to die in a remote desert area on the Navajo Nation

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GRIC Youth receives Boys & Girls Club 'Youth of the Year'

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Nila Antone, District 4, has been awarded 'Youth of the Year' from the Boys & Girls Club of the Gila River Indian Community – Sacaton Branch.

The Boys & Girls Clubs is the largest youth-serving agency in the nation, reaching about 90,000 Native youth in American Indian, Alaska Native, American Samoan, and Hawaiian tribal communities, according to its website.

Nearly 200 Clubs throughout the United States provide Native youth with a variety of culturally relevant, life-enhancing programs each year, including the Boys & Girls Club of the Gila River Indian Community: Sacaton and Komatke branches.

Antone has been attending the Community's Boys & Girls Clubs throughout her childhood



Nila Antone during a visit to the Arizona State Capitol. Photo courtesy of Nila Antone

and began working with the club's Sacaton branch last year, where she taught art classes to the youth.

"I've been with the Boys & Girls club since I was 8, as a member, and I continued going even after the [COVID-19] pandemic," said Antone, "This last year, I applied to work in the art room and I've been working since then."

She described the job as a unique and good experience. She added, "Being with the kids is

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Elder Appreciation Day returns at Huhugam Heritage Center



Community elders from District 4, sit together awaiting the award ceremony for the Elder Day competitions at the Huhugam Heritage Center. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

For the first time in three years since the COVID-19 pandemic, Community elders were welcomed with open arms at the Huhugam Heritage Center on April 20, for the appreciation of Community elders or as more people have come to know

it as, 'Elder Appreciation Day'.

"We are just really glad to have you here," announced the Director of the Huhugam Heritage Center, Shirley Jackson, to the elders gathered awaiting the competition and events to commence.

Since 2015, The

Huhugam Heritage Center has hosted this annual event to honor, show appreciation and give gratitude towards GRIC elders who carry cultural knowledge and wisdom for the Community. The occasion was a reclaimed Olympic theme originally intended for the 2020 El-

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GRIC employees walk in honor of MMIP



GRIC's tribal government employees gather for the openings remarks delivered by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, before their MMIP walk on May 5 at the Governance Center. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

On May 5th at 7 a.m., over 200 registered employees from various departments of the Gila River Indian Community came

together at the Governance Center in Sacaton. They showed their support for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's Awareness Day by participating in a 'Wear Red' virtual and

in-person walk/run. It was a powerful and moving event that highlighted the strength and unity of the Community.

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Missing & Murdered Indigenous People's Day – May 5, 2023

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GRIC Employee MMIP Walk Cont'd

"All of these activities are part of never forgetting our relatives, never forgetting what they mean to us, never forgetting their connection to us," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at the introduction of the walk.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone shared a payer before the event started to recognize participating employees and acknowledged all

individuals lost due to this national epidemic.

"It's all about these serious situations that happen to our children, our little ones, young ones, and adults that go missing and murdered in cases that we hear about," Lt. Gov. Antone said. "I just appreciate each of you coming out and each of the departments here and the [MMIP] task force in helping us with spreading awareness."

According to Marsha Chischilly, the Employee Development

Program Manager at the GRIC Human Resources Department, the red t-shirts given to registered employees are the same as those given to Community members who participated virtually.

Chischilly added, "Last year was the first year that we contributed to the MMIP event, with a wear red photo contest, and this year we were approached with an employee walk."

Ramsey Moffett, the Housing Services Manager, took part in the walk/run event of this year. He ex-



GRIC employees begin their two-mile walk around the Governance center in solidarity for the May 5 MMIP Awareness Day. Velia Moncada/GRIN



GRIC's Crime Victim Services were on-site with flyers and information at the employee MMIP Awareness walk event on May 5. Velia Moncada/GRIN

pressed that if it wasn't scheduled during work hours, he probably wouldn't have been able to participate. He appreciated that the event was made available to employees, which was a significant gesture.

After the walk, employees had the opportunity to visit Southern Arizona Legal Aid Inc., along with Gila River's Crime Victims Services and other resource booths present. Each contributes their services in various ways to help victims and families affected by the MMIP crisis.

DEQ's Earth Day Celebration returns

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

On Friday, April 21, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) hosted its annual Earth Day celebration within the DEQ's administration grounds in District 3. This communal event brought together youth and Community members to learn about the importance of wildlife and environmental preservation through many conservation program booths and activities.

"Planting seeds for tomorrow" was this year's theme, noted by Tison Gill, Education and Outreach Specialist at DEQ. "Planting a seed, as in making youth interested in environmental studies," said Gill.

The celebration began at 10 a.m. with opening remarks from Tison Gill and a song followed by a blessing from 2023-24 Miss Gila River Lehua Lani Dosela. Following the blessing Blackwater, Gila Crossing, Sacaton, and head start, students formed lines with their

teachers to tour the informational booths.

Booths included DEQ's divisions of air quality, water quality, fuel and restoration efforts. Along with, The Maricopa Audubon Society, Bureau of Indian Affairs Pima Agency Fire, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tohono O'odham Community College, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Jax Felling Company, Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project. And also joining were other GRIC entities like Gila River Health Care, The Community Garden Project, Gila River Police Department, GRIC Tribal Education.

These educational conservation agencies informed many about their preservation efforts that also connect with the Community. For example, the Maricopa Audubon Society has helped with the Gila River Winter Bird Count for many years to preserve the natural habitats of birds that reside close to the Gila River and wetlands in the Community.



Community members learn more about different bird species located in GRIC from the Liberty Wildlife staff. Velia Moncada/GRIN

By noon, youths, teachers, booth attendants, and Community members gathered for hamburgers and chips for lunch provided by The Ranch. Then the Keli Akimel Hua Modk Cudkdam (Gila River Basket Dancers) performed songs and dances for everyone to enjoy

as the event rounded out.

The celebration ended at 1:30 p.m. with closing remarks from Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and 2023-24 Jr. Miss Gila River, Eleanor Lynch.



Students from the Casa Blanca Community School attended the Earth Day celebration on April 21. Velia Moncada/GRIN



GRIC students learn how to create bird feeders during the event. Velia Moncada/GRIN

From the Front Page

der Appreciation Day. The Olympic theme pays tribute to the 2020 Olympic Games that were held in Tokyo that year.

However, COVID-19 restrictions forced the cancellation of the 2020 Elder's Appreciation Day event for GRIC.

For this year's return, the senior Olympic festivities began at 9:00 a.m. with a torch relay from the entrance of the Huhugam Heritage Center, then handed

off relay style to different district elders accompanied by Olympic-themed banners.

The schedule of competitive activities included javelin, ring toss, fishing, bowling, discus throw, and cornhole. Throughout the event, Community elders cheered each other on and showed their support.

"The highlight of this event is listening to our elders... listening to them laugh and just seeing them have a good time, giving them a break from everyday life," said Donald Sabori,

HHC staff member and Elder Appreciation Day host.

Organizers treated the elders with complimentary refreshments, informational booths from GRIC's Elderly Services program, lunch and free access to the museum, which features a new exhibit on traditional O'otham games.

"This is my first time here, overall, I think it was a pretty good turnout, and I liked it," said GRIC elder, Leana "Cheta" Porter from District 5, "I will come next year and plan on playing more games."



Huhugam Heritage Center employees and hosts dressed as Olympians for the 2023 Elder Appreciation Day. Velia Moncada/GRIN



A Community elder receives a prize for winning the fishing competition at the 2023 Elder Appreciation Day on April 20. Velia Moncada/GRIN



A participant shows off her prize after winning the javelin competition during the 2023 Elder Appreciation Day Event. Velia Moncada/GRIN

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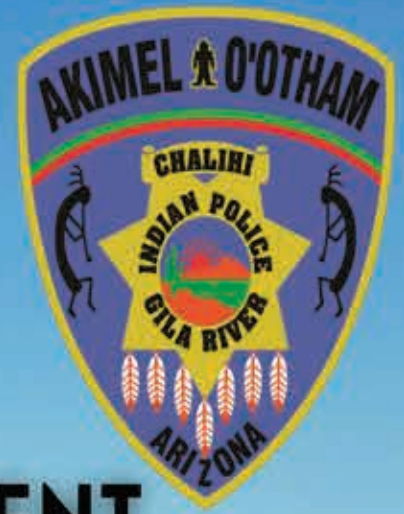
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FITNESS & WELLNESS

TRW hosts first Duathlon for GRIC Youth and Adults

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Duathletes gathered at the Mul-Chu-Tha fairgrounds Saturday, April 22, for the first-ever duathlon. The event challenges participants to complete two sports, biking and running. The event was coordinated by the Tribal Recreation and Wellness (TRW) staff, it was

non-competitive for the first year, and featured courses for both adults and children.

“We [TRW] always host runs and we recently completed a bike ride challenge so we thought it might be interesting to combine the two, so here we are,” said Aleshia White, staff member with Tribal Recreation and Wellness.

The TRW Duathlon differed from other Duathlon events one might find. First, the adult course challenged each person to run a 5k (three point one miles), bicycle for 10 miles, and run another 5k. Then the youth course tasked each child to run a half-mile, bike one mile, and run another half-mile.

Eight adults and three

children accepted the challenge for the Community’s first duathlon, each completing at various times.

Youth Grayson Cruz and his older brother, Owen Josay, came from Coolidge to participate this day. Their mother was excited to see TRW provide a variety of events that could genuinely challenge them. She always tries to find ways to keep them both active and thanks TRW for hosting new events for her family to join.

Avid runner and bicyclist Sandra Nasewytewa, District 6, was one of the duathletes. She said the heat was the most challenging but enjoyed the course. Nasewytewa thoroughly enjoys the increase of bicycling events TRW is hosting and hopes the duathlon continues after this year.

White said she was “excited” about the event turnout and hopes TRW considers making it an annual event.



Juan Hernandez sets out for his ten mile bike course after completing a 5k run on April 22. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Youth begin their half mile run after biking one mile April 22. Kyle Knox/GRIN

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- Maximum 3 player roster
- Must check-in with team by 10 AM no later.

Twenty years of service and milestone, recognized by Community

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

An annual celebration recognizing Gila River Indian Community's employees and their decades of hard work, were honored on Tuesday, April 25. Over 50 employees filled Fleming's Steakhouse in Chandler for the "20 Year Club" luncheon organized by GRIC Human Resources Department.

"We're blessed to be here today and honor those of you who gave 20 years and more of service to our Community," said Governor Stephen Roe Lewis. "Being here as long as you all have, you serve as a foundation for your departments and programs that provide critical services to our Community, thank you all!"

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's celebration was the first to be held in-person and outside the Community in a restaurant setting.

The gathering honors employees who have served tireless hours, years, and decades to the Community

for 20, 25, and 30 years. In the past, 35 and 40-year employees also received special recognition.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone also shared her gratitude for everyone being honored.

"As I look around the room, I'm so proud to see you all here, I've worked with many of you and even hired some of you many years ago," said Lt. Gov. Antone. "It's from our heart that we are all here to honor you today, as busy as we are, we know how important it is to recognize you all today."

In addition to the luncheon, each person received a special award and gift card at various monetary amounts based on years of service.

"Wherever life takes you after today, I hope you look back at your time working here with fond memories and realize what an impact you all had in contributing to our beautiful Gila River Indian Community," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

Those recognized this



Employees from across the Community enjoyed a celebratory lunch at Fleming's Steakhouse in Chandler on Tuesday, April 25. Kyle Knox/GRIN

year are as follows:

30 Years
Alexander Lee
Starleen Somegustava

25 Years
Antonelli Anton
Melvin Chischilly
Benny Dixon
Ruperto Hernandez
Cornell Johns



Community Manager Suzanne Jones, District 7 Coordinator Pamela Valdez, and Lt. Gov. Antone at the 20 Year Club celebration on April 25. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Community Manager Suzanne Jones, Chief of Security for Juvenile Detention & Rehabilitation Center Alexander Lee, and Lt. Gov. Antone, after Lee received his special gift for 30 years of service to GRIC. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Gregory Lewis
Rea Miles
Iris Pablo
Michael Stevens
Mary Valenzuela

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Randall Williams

Submission

Gila River Utility Authority

SUMMER COLLEGE STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM 2023

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for a full-time Summer College Student Intern.

The student will learn about the tasks and responsibilities of the people who provide electric service to the Community.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Student will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
- Pay will be \$13.85 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
- Program for student will be developed based on his/her major course of study – for example, a Business or Accounting major will work primarily with staff in that area; an Engineering or technical major will work primarily in the Operations areas of GRICUA.
- Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse & purchasing personnel, meter technician, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Student must be at least 16 years of age and currently enrolled as a full time student at an accredited college or university.
- Student must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.
- Student should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets; clear Arizona driver's license.
- Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment, which can be found at <http://www.gricua.net/employment.html>.
- Deadline for filing applications is May 12, 2023.
- Student will be required to pass a drug screen and background check prior to employment.
- Return applications via e-mail to GRICUAHR@GRICUA.NET; by fax to 520-796-0672 or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6636 W. Sundust Road, Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226.
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Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act. GRICUA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Submission

Gila River Utility Authority

SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL INTERN PROGRAM 2023

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for Summer High School Interns to learn a little about how an electric utility operates.

The students will rotate through various departments at GRICUA, learning about the tasks and responsibilities of the people who provide electric service to the Community.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
- Pay will be \$13.85 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
- Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse supervisor, meter technician, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility.

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HEADLINES EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Monica Antone
Lt. Governor

MMIP Awareness Continued

Reservation. Rhia Almeida, seven years old, was also sexually assaulted and brutally murdered.

Both Mike's and Almeida's murderers were caught and convicted. Pesqueria's case remains unsolved and suspects remain at-large.

"We bring awareness to the crisis affecting all of us in Indian country," Lt. Gov. said, "The crisis has escalated with the recent discovery of fraudulent sober living homes where Indigenous people have been targeted, exploiting and going missing."

GRIC recently issued a fraud alert, giving awareness and attention to Community members and individuals from other tribes who have reported being approached in their communities by individuals and recruiters from facilities commonly known as sober living homes and group homes.

Community members report being offered transportation to these facilities and often have difficulty

returning to their homes or contacting family.

"During this time, the victims are subject to criminal activities in these fraudulent facilities," said Lt. Gov Antone, "What we know about these scammers is the recruiters may offer the following that you need to be aware of: regular meals, a place to stay, like shelters, transportation, and other monetary items."

She said some warning signs are direct in-person solicitation and unfamiliar or suspicious vans or vehicles with people looking to recruit.

Lt. Orlando Ramirez is currently working in the Criminal Investigations Division of the Gila River Police Department.

"As a lieutenant I supervise three police sergeants who supervise violent crimes, general crimes, and child and sex crimes units," said Lt. Ramirez.

He explained what to do in the event of a missing person or runaway, "In the case that you do have a missing or runaway loved one, you would contact police immediately. There is no waiting period for that.

The sooner you call us then the faster we can respond."

Officers will ask general questions about whom the person is, age, physical description, last known location, and who they were with. Once officers obtain all the necessary information, an officer will contact the reporting party.

"It's a checklist but they will fill out a form that will have all the pertinent information, depending on the circumstances of how this person went missing," Lt. Ramirez explained.

The officer's primary role is to gather that information and pass it along to dispatch, who provides it to the National Crime Information System and the Arizona Crime Information System.

"Basically, what that does is it puts a flag on that person so if any other agencies, any other police agencies come in contact with this person, it'll hit that they're a missing person, they'll contact us and then we will get in touch with them," said Lt. Ramirez.

Investigators utilize NamUs (National Missing and Unidentified Person



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Sunshine Manuel, and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone offer words of acknowledgment to employees participating in the employee MMIP walk. Velia Moncada/GRIN

System), a national clearinghouse and resource center for missing and unidentified and unclaimed person cases across the U.S.

It is available to law enforcement, medical examiners & coroners, and families of missing persons. Investigators, as well as the public, can input information in there on missing loved ones.

Ramirez added, "It's a tool that empowers family members of missing persons to enter and search

case information. But it also connects the family with the criminal justice professionals to assist in the search."

"Gila River, we've always had that stigma of going off the Community or working with other agencies, and nowadays the things have changed," said Ramirez, "So now we actually work very well with them. They're reaching out to get assistance from us and we do the same in turn."

If you or a loved one

need services or would like to report any information about MMIP, you may contact the following:

- Gila River Police Department (520) 562-4511 or 911
- GRPD Silent Witness (520) 562-7144
- Crime Victim Services (520) 562-4106
- GRIC Crisis Line 1 (800)-259-3449
- On Eagles Wings Domestic Violence Shelter 855-203-5849
- GRHC SANE Forensic Nursing (520) 562-5151
- GRHC Behavioral Health Services (602) 528-7100



Cutouts of red dresses on display to honor MMIP victims at the State Capitol on May 5. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Lt. Gov. Antone films a video PSA highlighting the importance of MMIP Awareness Day for the Community and Indian Country. Emma Hughes/GRIN

GRIC Dept. Director's Meeting resumes in-person



Gila River Indian Community Department leadership, directors, and coordinators joined together for the first in-person meeting after the COVID-19 pandemic on Thursday, April 27 at the Community Council Chambers in Sacaton. GRIN Staff/GRIN

GRRC-Vee Quiva Re-opens Bingo Hall with Community and Elder Event

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

On April 28, Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Vee Quiva hosted the return of Bingo with ‘Elder Bingo’ from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Casino employees were eager to host new and familiar faces.

Bright, jubilant sighs filled the newly renovated Bingo Hall at Vee Quiva as Community elders listened to their peers shout out, “Bingo!”

In 2020, Gila River Resorts & Casinos canceled all bingo games and events. The decision to cancel was due to the COVID-19 restrictions placed in the Community, preventing large gatherings from occurring. However, since

then Gila River Resorts, & Casinos – Vee Quiva used this time to renovate the Bingo Hall and have waited for the Bingo Club to return.

“When COVID-19 hit, this room went away, and it was all slot machines, and we basically got rid of everything. Now we came back and rebuilt the whole room, made it better, made it look nicer,” said Nick Dorsey, Director of Facilities at Vee Quiva. “We are just really happy this came back to Vee Quiva and the Community.”

“I came today to see what it was like, and it feels the same,” described Community elder Bernadine Redbird, District 6.

Guests gathered inside the newly renovated hall

room and took their seats at long tables with tablets and their Bingo cards. Giant television screens were hung on the walls surrounding the hall, visually displaying the Bingo ball calls. In addition, there was a new fountain and coffee drink area, along with a snack bar where guests were given snacks and complimentary incentive bags with Bingo-styled t-shirts.

Vee Quiva is preparing to host more Bingo events daily throughout the matinee, evening, and mini sessions beginning May 5.

Patrons can also expect the return of ‘Bingo After Dark’ (B.A.D) Bingo on Saturdays at Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Vee Quiva.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and GRIC elders strike their bingo cards with their dabbers as bingo numbers are called at Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Vee Quiva. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Community elders Donna Reyes, Trina Reyes, Rose Genis, and Rhoda Anton socialize together during the Elder Bingo event held at the Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Vee Quiva. Velia Moncada/GRIN

From the front page

amazing, and watching them grow and helping them, it’s really amazing.”

Antone taught the kids art techniques and projects they could create at home while assisting them with reading and schoolwork.

“I’ve done art for as long as I can remember,” said Antone.

She credits her experience as a club member, “I’ve seen art staff come in and teach me things, so that’s what I’m doing for the kids, is teaching them things that I was taught; new techniques and just having fun.”

Before a panel of judg-

es, Antone and other applicants underwent interviews and were scored based on their responses, discussion, and speech. Antone was ultimately selected and recognized as the Youth of the Year.

Each year, one exceptional Club member is selected to be the National Youth of the Year, serving as an ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth as well as a voice for all youth.

“Nila is a very smart, talented girl who is always willing to help her peers and around the club,” said Jasmine Lopez, Sacaton branch administrative coordinator.

Lopez recognized

Nila’s potential and nominated Antone for the award. “She is confident in everything she does and when she wants something she will do what it takes to achieve it,” said Lopez.

Antone was also allowed to visit and tour the State Capitol, where she met Representatives TJ Shope and Teresa Martinez.

She plans to attend Mesa Community College for her general studies. She would also like to attend Northern Arizona University to pursue a teaching degree and return to work for the Community.

NABI debuts anniversary jersey at final Suns ORIGINATIV game

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

The Phoenix Suns held their final Originativ Night game for the regular season to a sold-out crowd Tuesday, April 4, at the Footprint Center in Phoenix. Governor Stephen Roe Lewis attended the game to support the Originativ programming and half-time recognition for the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI).

The half-time ceremony included the reveal of their 20th Anniversary Edition uniforms. The jersey’s color scheme and design align with the Phoenix Suns’ City Edition jerseys that NABI teams competing in this year’s tournament will sport.

NABI president and founding member GinaMarie Scarpa and NABI co-founder and former Phoenix Suns player Mark West were present for the recognition.

“The Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury have been great supporters of NABI since 2003, so tonight brings everything full circle as we celebrate our

20 years. It’s a real special moment for NABI and to have our youth wear them because it represents all 22 tribes across the state,” said GinaMarie Scarpa.

According to a NABI press release, Scarpa shared that the Phoenix Suns cre-

ative team designed the NABI jerseys under the direction of Sr. Marketing Director Graham Wincott.

This year’s NABI tournament will occur July 17-23 in Phoenix. One hundred forty-four teams representing over 150 Tribal nations have applied to participate this year, according to a NABI press release. The culmination of the tournament will take place Sunday, July 23, at the Footprint Center for the girl’s and

boy’s championship games. And once again this year, ESPN+ will return to stream six semi-final games and the tournament’s championship games.



Shawn Martinez, Mark West, GinaMarie Scarpa, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, and Graham Wincott reveal the new NABI jersey at halftime on April 4. Kyle Knox/GRIN

It’s Time To Put It On!

GRADUATION STOLE

THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT will provide students with a honorary stole to wear during graduation ceremonies. Student must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community and graduating from qualified Institutions.




- > High Schools
- > Vocational School
- > Community Colleges
- > Universities


Please contact your K-12 Student Advisor at Coolidge High School, Coolidge Alternative Program, Casa Grande High School, Betty Fairfax High School, Vista Grande High School, Tempe Unified School District, and Chandler Unified School District. Student Advisors have identified graduating students.

University and Community College graduates please call your Student Advisor with Student Services at (520) 562-3316.

Parents of Boarding Schools, please contact Ivy Namingha at (520) 562-3662.

Please contact the Tribal Education Department if you are not funded through the Scholarship Program or do not have a K-12 Student Advisor located at your school.



Contact the Tribal Education Department for more information. Phone: 520-562-3662
<https://www.gricted.com>

Lt. Gov. Antone attends 'Skybridge' Groundbreaking

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community's Lt. Gov. Monica Antone attended the groundbreaking of the newest development project at the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport on April 18.

Formerly known as the Williams Air Force Base, the airport served as a U.S. Military base until 1993, when it became Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Lt. Gov. Antone serves on the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority Board of Directors (PMGAA). The PMGAA's role is to develop, reuse, operate, and maintain

the former Williams Air Force Base airport property and facilities.

The Gila River Indian Community, the Cities of Mesa, Phoenix, Apache Junction, and the towns of Queen Creek and Gilbert all comprise the PMGAA. The Community also owns part of the land, which includes the airport, hotel, and golf course, in the area around the airport.

Following a board meeting that morning, members and staff gathered on-site for the groundbreaking for SkyBridge Arizona. The development features two 250,000-square-foot build-

ings for commercial and retail space.

"We have designed and are developing SkyBridge Arizona for the unique needs of those operating in the aviation, air cargo, e-commerce, manufacturing and defense sectors," said Ariel Picker, president of SkyBridge Arizona and SkyPlus Development.

Gilbert Mayor Brigitte Peterson, chair of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, stated, "We appreciate the commitment of SkyBridge to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, celebrate this latest groundbreaking and look forward to the



Gila River Indian Community Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, center right, at the Skybridge Arizona groundbreaking on April 18. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority Board of Directors: Mayor Chip Wilson, City of Apache Junction, Mayor Brigitte Peterson, Town of Gilbert, Gila River Indian Community Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Mayor Julia Wheatley, Town of Queen Creek, and Mayor John Giles, City of Mesa. Emma Hughes/GRIN

many benchmark celebrations to come."

"It's amazing to see how far they've come," said Lt. Gov. Antone, who shared her experience of living on the base while attending school at Arizona State University's Polytechnic Campus located next to the airport.

She lauded former GRIC Gov. Mary V. Thomas, the first woman to be elected governor, for her work in obtaining Community rights to the area and providing housing for members to pursue their education.

Lt. Gov. Antone also re-

ceived a one-on-one tour of It is twice the size of last the new Air Traffic Control tower and offers room for up tower constructed last year. to eight traffic controllers.



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone is given a tour of the Air Traffic Control Tower. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Maricopa Village Community School Family Gathering

Kyle Knox

Gila River Indian News

Sunday, April 23, The Maricopa Village Christian School gathered Community members for a "Family Fun Day" event for residents of District 7. Families and children enjoyed several activities, food, games, and snacks.

"Today's event serves as a meet and great for us and the residents of District 7, provide Community resources to families, and en-

roll new students all while enjoying food, games and having fun," said Al Chatman Jr., Maricopa Village Christian School Principal.

The fun day event is the second gathering the school has hosted; the first was last fall, and they hope to continue hosting two per year.

"It's really great for us, we look forward to making new friends and creating long lasting bonds with everyone here in the Community, because this campus

belongs to the Community so we're just doing our part to ensure the residents take advantage of what we can provide," said Chatman.

One exciting development Chatman shared was the start of the school "Adventurers Club" for children ages two to five years old. The goal is to instill responsibility, new skills, and increase family bonding through family participation. Initially, the program will serve children in Dis-

tricts 6 and 7, and they have hopes to expand across the Community.

"Today was a good way to get together, enjoy the water, the sun, and come

together as a Community," said one District 7 father who attended with his family. Their children enjoyed the water slides and food throughout the afternoon.

Their children are also enrolled in the school's "Adventurers Club" and look forward to more youth getting involved.




Youth enjoy playing in the water slide at the Maricopa Village Christian School Family Fun Day on April 22. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Al Chatman Jr., (far right) with members of the school staff and his wife, far left. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Submission
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - AUDITING SERVICES
Gila Crossing Community School
4665 W Pecos Road
Laveen, AZ 85336
Gila Crossing Community School (GCCS), located on the Gila River Indian Community, in Laveen Arizona, a federally funded grant school, is requesting proposals for Grant School Audit Services, to prepare the school's annual audit, subject to Single Audit A-133, for the school year ending June 30, 2024, with possible renewals for 2025 and 2026, respectively. The audit will consist of auditing the Gila Crossing School, tribally-controlled grant school, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §2501, et seq. GCCS serves approximately 500 students in Preschool through eighth grade. The School is funded primarily with federal monies, but also receives annually, a generous contribution from the Gila River Indian Community. Five (5) copies of the proposal and supporting documentation must be submitted to the School. Proposals must be in the format specified in this RFP and must be signed by the Offeror. The deadline for receipt of proposals by the School is 3:00 p.m., May 19, 2023. Proposals will be time-stamped upon receipt. Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes marked "Proposal for Auditing Services". All must be addressed to: Denise White, 4556 W Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ 85339.






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www.gccseagles.org

YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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- **Small Class sizes**
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- **On site fitness room**
- **Teacher supply room with copy machines**
- **Generous Classroom supply budget**

4665 W. Pecos Rd. Laveen AZ, 85339
 Contact
Irene Casias
irene.casias@gccseagles.org
 520-550-4834 ext. 246

CALLING ALL UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS

FBI PHOENIX DIVISION TEEN ACADEMY - 2023

PHOENIX ACADEMY
June 21, 2023

TUCSON ACADEMY
June 14, 2023


Our FBI Teen Academy program provides an opportunity for high school students to catch a behind-the-scenes look at the FBI.

Students will receive insight into today's FBI and learn the day-to-day operations of a typical FBI office. Apply for a chance to interact with the Evidence Response Team, SWAT team, Bomb Techs, and hear from subject matter experts.

The FBI Teen Academy turns an ordinary summer into an extraordinary adventure.

Applicants must reside in the state of Arizona and must be a high school upcoming junior or upcoming senior.

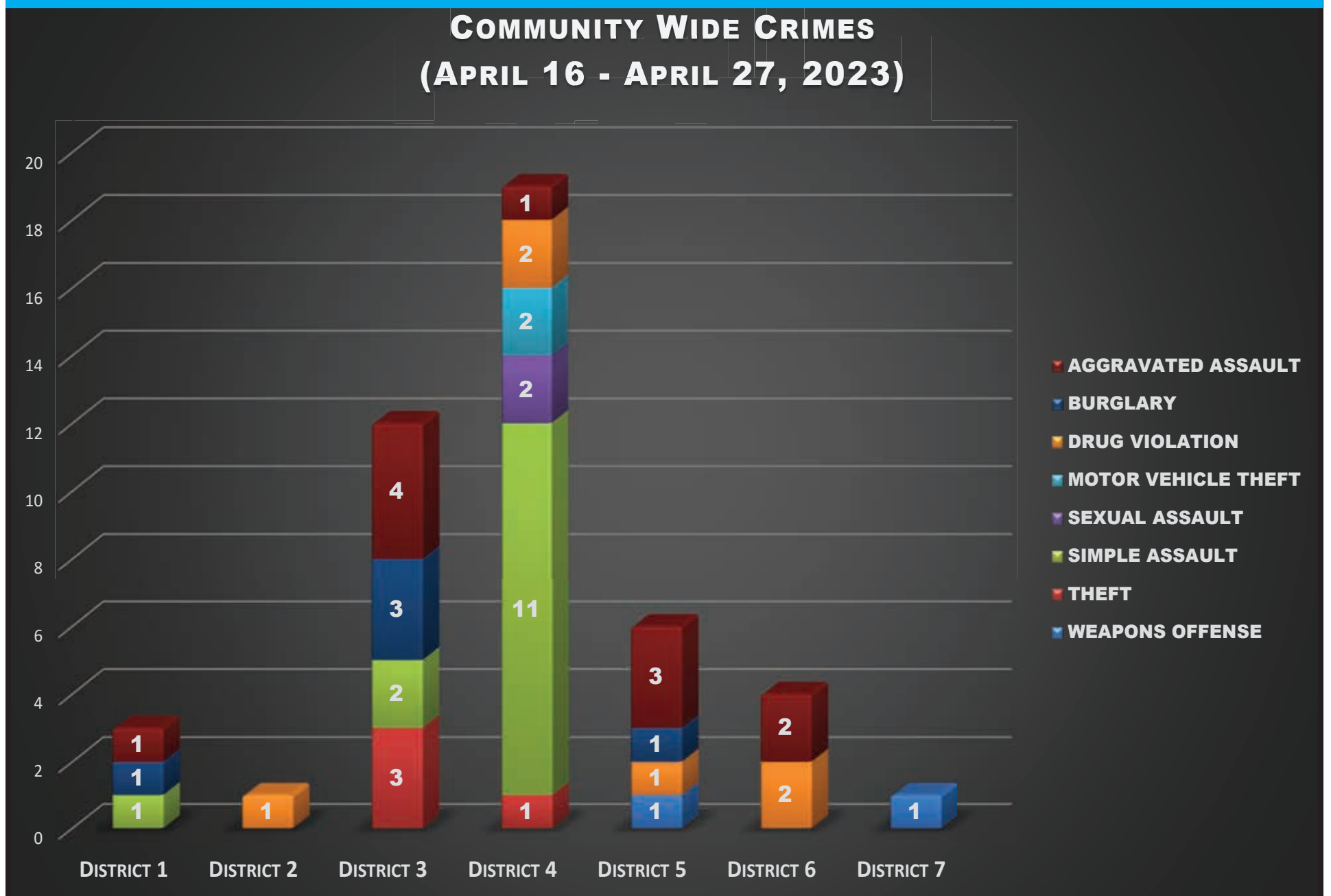
TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION



Visit the FBI Phoenix Outreach website and scan here

APPLICATION & WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE MAY 24, 2023

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs



COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • April 19, 2023

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, April 19, 2023, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:07 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Lt. Governor Monica 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, Rodney Jackson; D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Regina Antone; D5- James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr.(9:17); D6- Anthony Vilareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans
Council Members Absent:

D5- Wahlean Riggs

D7- Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE PRESENTATION #1 AND NEW BUSINESS #1 AND #2 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1, #2, AND #5 THROUGH #9; AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #4 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Skyline Introduction

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Swen Anderson, Keith Brown, Dr. Pamela Chandler
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

REPORTS

1. CY2022 Office of General Counsel Annual Report (Executive Session)

Presenters: Thomas L. Murphy, Javier G. Ramos

REPORT HEARD

RESOLUTIONS

*1. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Phoenix, Arizona, And The Gila River Indian Community, A Sovereign Nation, To Construct Sidewalks Within Phoenix Right Of Way And A City Owned Parcel (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Steve Johnson, Calvin Touchin
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Termination Of Per Capita Trust Accounts And Directing The Distribution Of Trust Assets To Certain Beneficiaries (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 3 To The Gila River Indian Community Operating Budget For Fiscal Year 2023 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 53 To The Gila River Indian Community Capital Projects Fund Budget For Fiscal Years 2023 Through 2027 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

APPROVED

>5. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite Lease On Allotment 4283 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Six Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Talia Apkaw, Kimberly Antone, Eugene Blackwater, Javier Ramos

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. A Resolution Partially Rescinding Resolution GR-034-21 And Amending The Interim Amendment To Section III Of The Gila River Indian Community's "Employee Policies And Procedures Reference Guide" By Revising The Section Entitled "Leave Of Absence For Coronavirus (COVID-19)" (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)

Presenters: Suzanne Jones, Bruce Harvey, Candalerian Preston, Thomas Murphy
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License To The Tempe Diablos Charities, Inc. For Use At The Rawhide Western Town & Event Center On April 22, 2023 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Casaundra Wallace, Elizabeth Antone

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. A Resolution Amending Resolution GR-14-98 By Dividing Angelina Flores Tribal Homesite Parcel Into Two Separate Parcels Located In The District 6 Within The Gila River Indian Reservation And Amending Angelina Flores Homesite Assignment Agreement And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Lawrence Milda (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Antone

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community Police Department And The Wild Horse Pass Development Authority (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval;

EDSC forwards To Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections and placement on the consent agenda) Presenters: Elizabeth Antone, Casaundra Wallace

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Court of Appeals Judge One (1) Appointment Presenters: Community Council
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT KYLE B. FIELDS TO THE COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION

2. Written Public Apology (LSC forwards to Community Council for discussion and action the information provided by the Council Secretary copies of the certified letter sent on February 23, 2023, outline for the suspension timeframe and the process for submitting the letter and deadline)

Presenters: Shannon White, Thomas Murphy
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL TO PREPARE A STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND FORWARD TO LSC FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF COUNCILWOMAN RIGGS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gila River Indian Community Child Care Development Stabilization Grant Program (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval; ESC concurs)

Presenters: Philana Thinn, Isaac Salcido
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. High Level Water and Wastewater Master Plan Presentation (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Barney Enos, Jr., Curtis Johnson,

Steve Heeley, Jesus Haro, Robert Lyons
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*3. Community Services Department Assessment (Executive Session) (H&SSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with additional information)

Presenters: Stephen Lewis, Monica Antone, Suzanne Jones, Sunshine Manuel, April Olsen, Glennas'ba Augborn, Michael Preston, Jesse Crabtree, Laurie Thomas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT

>4. Rescinding Resolution GR-07-98 (NRSC forwards to Council and placement on the consent agenda) CRSC concurs)

Presenters: Sunshine Manuel, Barnaby Lewis
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MINUTES

1. November 2, 2022 (Regular)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ESC/CRSC WORK SESSION CANCELED
- LITIGATION TEAM MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.
- GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

- PUBLIC HEARING GRID RESILIENCE STATE/TRIBAL FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM APRIL 20, 2023 AT THE DISTRICT 3 SERVICE CENTER FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:21 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
IN THE MATTER OF: Faith Manuel
Docket Number: JC-2023-0004-CA
This case has been scheduled and **YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR** on the date, time, and place designated below. **IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR** a warrant may be issued for your arrest or

judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court.

Answer/ Response Hearing
Date: May 9, 2023
Time: 10:30 AM
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI
721 West Seed Farm Road
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Submission

Gila River Nation,
I attended a gathering in District 7 on Saturday, April 15, 2023, it was an enlightening and educational gathering with a lot of educational booths. It was wonderful to learn that there are so many resources for the tribe.

the public. He looked so happy and joined in on the dance, I like seeing that. I even got the chance to talk with him. I told him I was married to one of the members from District 2, Gerald P. Enos, he was my life. Governor Lewis, Job well done.

Governor Stephen R. Lewis was out there visiting with

Ms. Rena E. Enos

Caring for Community

Community Wellness Starts Here

Are you a Phoenix resident? You can get behavioral health treatment and services at no cost. You are not alone. Just reach out. We're here to help.

Scan the code, visit GetWellPhx.org or Call 1-866-642-1582 Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

A healthy community is important. It's okay to ask for help. We're here for you.



Services made possible through an ARPA grant from the City of Phoenix.



PREGNANT? GET CARE EARLY.

Your baby is the future of your Tribal community.
Take care of yourself and your baby during pregnancy.

GET EARLY PRENATAL CARE.

Prenatal care visits help reduce problems during birth and give you a way to learn more about what to expect during pregnancy.

GO TO APPOINTMENTS REGULARLY.

You will have many check-ups during your pregnancy. Try not to miss any — they are all important.

Make an appointment with your healthcare provider if you are or think you may be pregnant.

For more information about the ITCA Maternal Health Innovation Program, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/ITCAMHI.



This project was produced by Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. Support for this project was provided through a cooperative agreement (Grant No. 6 U7AMC33714-02-01) from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.



PREMIER MITSUBISHI

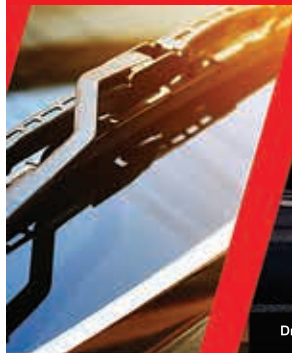


I'm in a
Pickle!
Drive for a
Nickel!
2023



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PREMIER MITSUBISHI



PREMIER MITSUBISHI

Alignment
SPECIAL
\$69.95

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

Valid Monday-Saturday 4/24/23-7/1/23. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

PREMIER MITSUBISHI

Brake Pad Replacement
\$159.95 SPECIAL

Valid Monday-Saturday 4/24/23-7/1/23. Included machining brake rotors. Specialty and heavy-duty vehicles excluded. See Service Advisor for details. Rotor replacement is additional cost. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

PREMIER MITSUBISHI

Oil and Filter Change **Synthetic Blend Oil**
\$29.95

*up to 5 quarts (each additional quart \$5.25)
*full synthetic oil additional cost
*specialty vehicles excluded

Valid Monday-Saturday 4/24/23-7/1/23. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

For more details contact
520-800-1084 or visit
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1648 N Pinal Ave
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

MAY 2023 HIRING EVENTS NOW HIRING!

SAME DAY HIRING

NOW HIRING FOR OVER 250 POSITIONS
AT GILA RIVER RESORTS & CASINOS

To speed up the process prior to the event:

- Scan QR Code to apply online
- Bring two forms of ID with you
- Bring 4 references (Name & Addresses)
- Tribal ID CDIB (If applicable)



**SCAN TO
SEE CURRENT
JOB OPENINGS**

DATE	TIME	VENUE	ADDRESS
5/2/2023	12PM - 4PM	Wild Horse Pass HR Corporate Center	Suite 130 5350 N 48th St Chandler, AZ 85226
5/4/2023	12PM - 4PM	Shelde Building	5718 W North Loop Rd Chandler, AZ 85226
5/6/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 3, SACATON Boys & Girls Club	116 S. Holly Street Sacaton, AZ 85147
5/9/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 4, SANTAN	Service Center 1510 West Sesame Street Sacaton, AZ 85147
5/12/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 2, HASHAN KEHK	Service Center Multipurpose Room 8070 Park St Sacaton, AZ 85147
5/13/2023	9AM - 3PM	The Arizona Forum	2301 S Stearman Rd Chandler, AZ 85286
5/16/2023	9AM - 3PM	Gila River Resorts & Casinos Wild Horse Pass Casino	Acacia Ballroom 5040 Wild Horse Pass Blvd Chandler, AZ 85226
5/18/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 3, SACATON	Service Center 18 E Pima St Sacaton, AZ 85147
5/20/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 6, KOMATKE	Service Center 5230 St Johns Rd Laveen Village, AZ 85339
5/22/2023	1PM - 4PM	District 7, MARICOPA COLONY	Service Center Gymnasium 8035 S 83rd Ave Laveen Village, AZ 85339
5/23/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 4, SANTAN	Service Center 1510 West Sesame Street Sacaton, AZ 85147
5/24/2023	12PM - 4PM	Central Arizona College Signal Peak Campus Casa Grande	8470 N Overfield Rd Coolidge, AZ 85128
5/25/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 5, CASA BLANCA	District Center Multipurpose Building, Gymnasium 3456 W Casa Blanca Rd Bapchule, AZ 85121
5/27/2023	1PM - 6PM	Casa Grande Community Rec. Center	1905 N Peart Rd Casa Grande, AZ 85122
5/29/2023	12PM - 4PM	Chandler - Gilbert Community College, Pecos Campus	2626 E Pecos Rd Chandler, AZ 85225
5/30/2023	12PM - 4PM	District 4, SANTAN	Service Center 1510 West Sesame Street Sacaton, AZ 85147

MUST PASS PRE EMPLOYMENT DRUG/ALCOHOL TEST AND BACKGROUND CHECK

BINGO is Back!

OPEN EVERY DAY
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

MATINEE SESSIONS | 12:00PM

MINI SESSIONS | 5:30PM

EVENING SESSIONS | 6:30PM



BINGO

After Dark

SATURDAYS

\$5,600 CASH GUARANTEED

PARTY STARTS
10:30PM

BINGO STARTS
11:30PM

GILA RIVER
RESORTS & CASINOS



vee quiva

See Bingo Club for details, or Call the Bingo Hotline at (520) 796-7777 ext. 1913