

GRIC Officials Sworn into Office

Stephen Roe Lewis takes oath as Governor for fourth term, Regina Antone begins term as Lieutenant Governor



Stephen Roe Lewis, District 3, is sworn into office as Governor at the Community Council Chambers on Jan. 1. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Regina Antone, District 4, is sworn into office as the new Lieutenant Governor, on Jan 1. Velia Moncada/GRIN

GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

Stephen Roe Lewis and Regina Antone were sworn in as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, respectively, along with the elected judges in a ceremony held in the Community Council

Chambers on Jan. 1.

Per the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community, the elected officials, “shall take office the first day of January following their election,” in Article VIII – Tenure of Office.

Judge Kami Hart administered the oath to Chief Judge

Anthony Hill, who then presided over the remainder of the ceremony by swearing in the associate judges: Sherri L. Cassa, Brianna L. Rhodes, Gwendolyn P. Morago, Charles W. Aragon, and Darren Pedro-Martinez.

Judge Hill then administered

the oath of office to Ms. Antone as lieutenant governor, in her first term, followed by Mr. Lewis in his fourth successive term.

Family and friends also attended the ceremony, which concluded with remarks by Gov. Lewis.

The inauguration for Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov. Antone and judges will take place on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass at 2 p.m., with more announcements to follow.

Continued on Page 3

Gila River Police Department holds Awards Banquet

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

On Dec. 13, 2023, the Gila River Police Department (GRPD) hosted their 2023 awards banquet at the GRPD training headquarters in Chandler, with 94 GRPD officers recognized for their diligence and commitment to public service.

“We are celebrating all the awards that our different officers have done this past year. This is the first year we are celebrating since the pandemic,” said GRPD Chief of Police Jesse Crabtree.

The awards distributed throughout the evening ranged in four categories extending from the 2019 Chief’s Unit Citation Awards to the 2023 Supervisor of the Year, all requiring certain criteria for an officer to be selected for their excellence and bravery.

GRPD Lieutenant Celestina Perez was awarded the 2022

Community Service Award recognizing her significant contribution in representing GRPD as a police officer and as a Community member.

Through her time, actions, talents and dedication outside of her work hours, Perez wanted to establish a better connection of support between the Community and GRPD.

“In that time, I was able to show a lot of support in the Community, attend a lot of the Community functions and represent the department at the same time,” Perez said, “It was important to be seen in the Community; for me, as a Community member to be there, as well as be a representative of the department.”

Perez is a former sergeant, who was promoted in September of 2023 and is the first female

Continued on Page 8



L-R: GRPD’s Lt. Celestina Perez, Lt. Caroline Johnson, Commander Tamatha Villar, Chief Jesse Crabtree, Asst. Chief William Morago and Commander Jeff Hunter. Miyana Manus/CPAO

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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

2024 INAUGURATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2024

**Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass - Akimel Ballroom
5594 W Wild Horse Pass Blvd Phoenix, AZ 85226**

Doors Open: 1pm | Inauguration Ceremony: 2pm | Dance: Begins 8pm

Limited Seating & Incentives

Governor
Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Regina Antone

Chief Judge
Anthony Hill

Associate Judge
Sheri Cassa

Associate Judge
Briana Rhodes

Associate Judge
Charles Aragon

Associate Judge
Darren Pedro-Martinez

Associate Judge
Gwendolyn Morago

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: SPECIAL.EVENTS@GRIC.NSN.US
OR CALL (520) 562-9713 OR (520) 562-9859



Governor
Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Regina Antone

Community Council
Representatives

District 1
Arzie Hogg
Joey Whitman

District 2
Ann M. Lucas

District 3
Avery White
Joseph Manuel Jr.

District 4
Jennifer Allison
Lalena Jackson
Christopher Mendoza
Nada Celaya

District 5
Brian E. Davis, Sr.
James De La Rosa
Franklin Pablo Sr.
Gordon Santos Jr.

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

District 7
Devin Redbird

Gary Mix, Tribal Treasurer
Shannon White,
Community Council Secretary

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CELEBRATING ELECTED OFFICIALS



Governor
Stephen Roe Lewis



Lt. Governor
Regina Antone



Chief Judge
Anthony Hill



Associate Judge
Sheri Cassa



Associate Judge
Brianna Rhodes



Associate Judge
Darren Pedro-Martinez



Associate Judge
Charles Aragon



Associate Judge
Gwendolyn Morago





2024

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Gila River Health Care for your healthcare needs. We are grateful for your trust and confidence in us, and we are committed to providing you with the highest quality care possible.

We hope you have a chance to relax and enjoy some quality time with your loved ones.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in the year to come.

2023-2024 COVID-19 Shots Now Available

By Walk In or By Appointment At Any Gila River Health Care Primary Care Department

Who should get the COVID-19 shot?

Anyone ages 6 months and older may receive the 2023-2024 COVID shot through Gila River Health Care

Why?

The 2023-2024 COVID-19 shot will protect you and your family from the current circulating COVID-19 virus

Where?

Vaccine for Ages 5 and above are available as a walk-in or by appointment at any Gila River Health Care

- Primary Care Department
- Pediatrics Department
- Community Mobile Outreach Clinic

For Ages 6 months to 4 years available as walk in or by appointment in the Pediatrics Department

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

(520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495

Komatke Health Center

(520) 550-6000 Ext. 6060

Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center

(520) 796-2697

Ak-Chin Clinic

(520) 568-3881

Pediatrics Department

(520) 562-3321 Ext. 7337

Visit the grhc.org/hub or scan QR code to view Community Mobile Outreach Clinic Calendar



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MOBILE UNIT SERVICES PLUS

SERVICES PROVIDED:

Children:

- ▶ Sports Physicals
- ▶ Immunizations**
- ▶ Health Education
- ▶ Blood Sugar Screenings

Adults:

- ▶ Immunizations**
- ▶ Blood Pressure Screenings
- ▶ Blood Sugar Screenings

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Scan Here



CONTACT

Robin Henry, FNP-BC
520-517-0693

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CRISIS LINE: 800-259-3449

Respected Associate Judge Janice Breckenridge Retires

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community Tribal Court Associate Judge Janice Breckenridge, District 6, celebrated her retirement on Dec. 13, 2023, at the Akimel O’otham Loditha Kud Ki (River People’s Court Building) in Sacaton. She served on the bench for 12 years and spent a total of 39 years working for GRIC.

“It’s been good working for the community because I’m from here,” said Breckenridge. Her fellow judges threw the party,

which was open to the public.

Breckenridge started her career with the Gila River Police Department (GRPD) in 1983. After completing her bachelor’s degree in business from Western International University, she began working in dispatch and detention.

Breckenridge eventually moved into the investigations office of GRPD where she became knowledgeable in the National Crime Information Systems and taught investigators how to write reports. She also helped the city of Coolidge police depart-

ment.

In 1995, Breckenridge moved into gaming surveillance and spent 15 years in that capacity, becoming director of surveillance at Gila River Resorts & Casinos—Wild Horse Pass. She left to care for her sister, Alberta Breckenridge, when she became ill.

Alberta encouraged Breckenridge to pursue a career in judicial clerkship and urged her to run for associate judge in the Community. In 2012, Breckenridge completed her master’s degree in business and was elected associate judge.

Breckenridge said she was able to base decisions on significant laws such as the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the evolution of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was enacted in 1994. These two tribal acts were significant in charging non-Community members with crimes committed in the Community.

Breckenridge advises anyone interested in a justice career to study law and be mindful of their actions because if they are judging others, their behavior will come under scrutiny.

“I’ve always been told

as judges, your life becomes an open book,” she said. “So, you [have to] watch yourself out there in the public.”

She added that the most important part of a judge’s job is being honest and making decisions that will benefit everybody.

In retirement, Breckenridge plans to focus on her health. She said she still plans to serve as a judge

pro tempore, which is a volunteer position, in Tribal Communities or whenever there may be a need for an outside judge’s assistance.

Breckenridge states, “It’s been a privilege working for [my] Community and [I’m] thankful to the Community who put their trust in [me] by voting for [me] as an Associate Judge.”



L-R: Associate Judge Sheri Cassa, Associate Judge Darren Pedro-Martinez, Associate Judge Janice Breckenridge and Brianna Rhodes. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Associate Judge Janice Breckenridge in The Community’s main court, the Akimel O’otham Loditha Kud Ki (River People’s Court Building). Velia Moncada/GRIN

January 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 	2	3 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Current Drug Trends D3 New Beginnings Building 2pm-3pm</div>	4 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Yes to Life! & Narcan Booth D3 Post Office 10am-12pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Mental Health Awareness 6pm-7pm</div>	5 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Yes to Life! RV Drive Thru D5 Vendor Lot 11am-1pm</div> <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">2024</h1>
8 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Active Parenting of Teens 9am-12pm</div>	9 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Active Parenting of Teens 9am-12pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Narcan Education D1 Service Center 11am-1pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Narcan Education D7 Service Center 2:00pm-3:30pm</div>	10 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Yes to Life! & Narcan Booth D2 Service Center 10am-12pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Mental Health Awareness & Hot Cocoa D3 South Housing, Whipsmal Rd 5pm-6pm</div>	11 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Stress & Self-Care 5pm-6pm</div>	12 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Journaling for Prevention 10am-11am</div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">QPR Suicide Prevention 10am-11am</div>
15 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Yes to Life! & Narcan Booth D1 Gas Station 9am-12pm</div>	16 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Mental Health First Aid D6 Dialysis Center 8:30am-5pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Stress and Self Care 11am-12pm</div>	17 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Full Day: Active Parenting of 0-5 years. Red Tail Hawk 9am-4pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Mental Health Awareness & Hot Cocoa D2 Basketball Court, Sific St. 5pm-6pm</div>	18 	19 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Gila River Prevention Coalition D3 Dialysis Center 10am-12pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Move & Groove Self-Care Line Dance D5 Service Center 5pm-7pm</div>
22 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Active Parenting D6 Shegoi Building 9am-12pm</div>	23 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Active Parenting D6 Shegoi Building 9am-12pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Winter Storytelling Night D6 Service Center 6pm-8pm</div>	24 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Narcan Education D4 Service Center 11am-1pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Parenting as Prevention: Create Chores Chart D5 Service Center 5pm-7pm</div>	25 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Alcohol Awareness Super Bowl Obstacle Challenge D5 Service Center 5pm-7pm</div>	26 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Narcan Education Booth D6 Service Center 1pm-2:30pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Journaling for Prevention 10am-11am</div>
29 	30 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Winter Storytelling Night D2 Service Center 6pm-8pm</div>	31 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">SafeTALK Suicide Prevention D3 New Beginnings Building 9am-12pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;">Prescription Safety & Narcan Booth D3 & D5 Post Office 9am-1pm</div>	<p>CALL OR TEXT 988 FOR THE SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE</p> <p>GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CRISIS HOTLINE: 1 (800) 259-3449</p>	

Behavioral Health Services
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

Access our monthly calendar
www.GRHC.org/BHS
520-610-5840
COVID Anxiety & Stress Helpline
602-528-7122

Would you like access to our BHS online calendar? Scan this QR code to see all of our January events & activities.

= Online

= In person

= RV

★ VETERANS ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS



79th Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising

Military Parade and Flyover to begin at 8:30 AM. Ceremonies to follow at the Mathew B. Juan, Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton, AZ.
All Public and Veterans Groups are Welcome

**Feb. 24
2024**

Luncheon hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 84 with St. Peters Church and School. Event sponsored by American Legion Ira H. Hayes Post No. 84 and Auxiliary Unit No. 84. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 186, Sacaton, AZ, 85147 / Phone: 520.562.8484 / Fax: 520.562.3297 / Email: ihpost84@gilanet.net / Web: www.irahayespost84.org

Native Americans in the Military Recognizing Code Talkers and Thunderbirds

Submitted by
Veterans & Family Services
Office

Serving with distinction in every major U.S. conflict for over 200 years, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives serve at 5 times the national average of any population in the U.S. Approximately 1.4 percent of the U.S. population is Native with approximately 1.7 percent of the military being Native. Of the 1.7 percent serving, Native American and Alaskan females comprise nearly 20 percent of this population.

Approximately 12,500 Native Americans enlisted or were drafted into WWI. About two-thirds of them served in the infantry, but at a high cost. Roughly five percent of these combat soldiers were killed. About 10,000 Native women joined the Red Cross to assist with the war efforts. Choctaw and other Natives transmitted codes in their native languages by telephone to win some of the battles that ended the war.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor during WWII, an estimated 44,000 of the total 350,000 Native and Native Alaskan population

went on active duty including about 800 women. As a population, they earned 71 Air Medals, 34 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 51 Silver Stars, 47 Bronze stars and 5 Medals of Honor. Approximately 10,000 served during the Korean War. Another 42,000 served during Vietnam of which 90 percent were volunteers.

When asked about why so many Native Americans join the military, Marine Code Talker Peter McDonald said, "There was exploitation, but our desire to maintain what belongs to us and protect our families is part of our desire to volunteer and protect our land."

In total, 27 American Indians have been awarded the Medal of Honor which is the Nation's highest military honor.



Code Talkers

The Code Talkers were comprised of 14 different tribes. The first

Code Talkers were used during WWI using tribal languages that the German's could not decipher. Most of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers were from the State of Arizona.



Thunderbirds

The Army's 45th Infantry Division, known as the Thunderbirds for their distinctive insignia, became one of America's most acclaimed World War II combat units. American Indians made up about one-fifth of the 45th Infantry Division including three who received the Medal of Honor: Jack Montgomery (Cherokee, 1917-2002), Van T Barfoot (Choctaw, 1919-2012) and Ernest Childers (Muscogee Nation, 1918-2005) and the first Native American to be awarded the Medal of Honor in WWII). General George Patton said to the Thunderbirds, "You are one of the best, if not the best, divisions in the history of American arms."



FOOD HANDLER AWARENESS TRAINING

ON JULY 18, 2012 THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY ADOPTED THE 2009 FDA MODEL FOOD CODE, ANNEX AND SUPPLEMENT THIS TRAINING COURSE IS DESIGNED AND REFERENCES THIS CODE.

BASIC LEVEL CLASSROOM TRAINING FOOD HANDLER AWARENESS (FHA)
2.5 hour long course • Certificate of Training Upon Completion

In-Person Classes on a First Come First Serve Basis
LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE PER CLASS

Doors will close 15 minutes after class has begun.
1st Wednesday of each month from 9:00am - 11:30am
3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm - 3:30pm

District 3 Tribal Health Department Building • 433 W. Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

FHA Scope: The Food Handler Awareness training is locally designed to be about 2 ½ hour introductory instruction to food safety. This training provides individuals with overview of foodborne illness and contamination, receiving, storing, preparing and serving food, personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, and pest prevention. A food handler is defined as any person employed in a food premise, who at any time may be involved in the manufacturing, preparation, packing or service of food for sale.

**For More Info or Questions
Please Call GRIC THD:
(520) 562 - 5100**



DISTRICT SEVEN RECREATION & COMMITTEE PRESENT:

8035 S. 83rd Avenue, Laveen, AZ 85339 | Multipurpose Facility | Gymnasium | Park

Save the Date

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

161st Annual Five Tribes

Treaty of Peace Celebration



Parade, Horseshoe Tournament, Bird Competition, Stage Entertainment, Food, T-shirt and incentive giveaway, Family Fun, and a dance to end the celebration!!! An official flyer with more details coming soon. For more information contact Veronica Rhodes or Jasmine Reece, 520-430-4780.

MUL-CHU-THA

600

YEARS

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 15-17, 2024



GRPD Award Banquet Cont.

Community member to be promoted as Lieutenant Officer.

“I love serving the Community, I feel like it is my home now, working here for 12 years,” said GRPD Detective Rachelle Rodriquez, “I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.”

Rodriquez currently serves as acting sergeant for the special victims’ unit

and was nominated for Officer of the year in 2021.

In 2020, Rodriquez began her career as a detective. Sharing that the support she had from Sergeant William Faulkner, and the learning experiences she gained from that year is what she recognizes as the stepping stones of how she received her award.

“It was just a year of a lot of learning and hard cases, that ended up with good results and justice,” said

Rodriquez who explained she’s motivated to help the youth that are mistreated and hopes to continue her work in the justice system with GRPD until she retires.

The award banquet evening ended into the night with GRPD and their families congratulating one another for their accomplishments in public service.



94 awards were presented at the Gila River Police Department’s Awards Banquet, honoring police officers through the years of 2019-2023. Velia Moncada/GRIN



GRPD Lt. Celestina Perez, presented with the 2022 Community Service Award. Miyana Manus/CPAO



GRPD Detective Rachelle Rodriquez, awarded for 2021 Employee of the Year. Miyana Manus/CPAO

2023 Police Department Awards

Supervisor of the Year

Sgt. Jimmy Walker - 2023

Officer of the Year

Officer Garrett Bustamante - 2023
 Detective, Rachelle Rodriquez - 2021

2023 - Meritorious Service

Officer Juan Flores-Ramirez
 Officer Brian Kisto - 2023
 Teresa Villescaz - 2022

2023 - Communications Employee of the Year

Leann Tanner

Kevin Lewis Lifesaving Award

Ranger, Dallas Johnson - 2020
 Officer, Benjamin Lovell - 2021
 Officer Isaiah Smith - 2023
 Officer Brandon Spurley - 2023
 Officer Nicolaus Cruz - 2023
 Officer Frank Reynoso - 2023
 Randal Lara - 2023
 Officer Nash Marlow - 2023

Community Service Award

Sgt. Celestina Perez - 2022

2019 Chief’s Unit Citation Awards

Officer, Joe Pacheco - 2019
 Officer, Jeremy Williams - 2019
 Officer, Anthony Mayer - 2019
 Officer, Joe Griffin - 2019
 Officer, Alfonso Villar - 2019
 Officer, Jerrod Rosson - 2019
 Officer, Michael Espinoza - 2019

2021 Chief’s Unit Citation Award - SRO UNIT

Officer, Garrett Bustamante
 Officer, Antony Lerch
 Officer, James Milano

Officer, Michael Mateo
 Officer, Clifton Smith
 Sgt. Paul Maroney

2021 Chief’s Unit Citation Award - Drug Unit

Sgt. Alfonso Villar
 Officer, Matthew Lerma
 Officer, Maurisio Miranda
 Officer, Michael Kennedy

2022 Chief’s Unit Citation Award - Dispatch

Courtney Absher
 Jessica Anderson
 Lori Aguayo
 Lanadine Allen
 Lisa Brown
 Christina Hughes
 Melba Kermode
 Sandra Tanner
 Adolfo Sanchez
 Teresa Villescaz
 Brian Blackbeaver
 Siovhon Cooper
 Alyssa June
 Manuel Lewis
 Kirsten Trakys
 Vanessa Talieje

2020 Chief’s Unit Citation Award - Ranger

Officer, Jonathan Benton
 Steven Petersen
 Mariano Conly
 Ranger Anthony Mayer
 Ranger Michael Espinoza
 Sgt. Jimmy Walker

2022 Chief’s Unit Citation Award - Ranger

Yvonte Lee
 Michael Espinoza
 Dallas Johnson
 Austin Himes

Mark Duran
 Frank Wolf
 Omar Torres
 Morgan Jaecks
 Randall Lara
 Jimmy Walker

2023 Chief’s Unit Citation Award

Sergeant Jimmy Walker
 Ranger Michael Espinoza
 Ranger Steven Petersen
 Ranger Dallas Johnson
 Ranger Mark Duran
 Officer Monseis Ramos

Above and Beyond Award

Detective, Jeff Hunter - 2019
 Sgt, Robert Jackson - 2019
 Officer, Jonathan Lopez - 2019
 Officer, Joe Pacheco - 2019
 Officer, Benjamin Lovell - 2020
 Ranger, Dallas Johnson - 2021
 Ranger, Michael Espinoza - 2021
 Sgt. Vanessa Enos - 2021
 Sgt. Robert Jackson - 2021
 Kayla Williams - 2021
 Valerie Urquides - 2021
 Daniela Acunia-Ovante - 2021
 Vanessa Talieje - 2022
 Brian Blackbeaver - 2022
 Christina Hughes - 2022
 Officer, Ralph Martinez - 2022
 Officer, Darren Bryant - 2022
 Kathyleen Curley - 2022
 Kayla Williams - 2022
 Denna Domingo - 2022
 Valerie Urquides - 2022
 Officer Robert Calderon - 2023
 Officer Daniel Bradshaw - 2023
 Officer Scott Peterson - 2023

PIMMEX Contracting donates to annual Toy Drive

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community member and Pimmex Contracting President, Carlos Muñoz, District 5, donated \$7,000 to Tribal Social Services (TSS) for their Christmas Toy Drive.

“It’s something we don’t budget for and we totally rely on donations,” said Director of TSS, Kelly Vickery, “It’s sometimes the only gifts the children will receive, so we really try to make it as special as

we can.”

Pimmex was contacted by TSS for sponsorship as the program relies on donations to purchase toys and gifts for over 900 children in the Community, which is also part of Pimmex’s goal to make a difference and serve Native Communities in the state.

These sponsorships are important for families in providing toys, clothes, food and entertainment during the holiday season.

Muñoz has a history of assisting families during

the holidays and is known for his generosity throughout the Community.

“My background before I started the company was with youth for the town of Queen Creek, it was a youth and teen center that I was a big part of so anything with [helping] the youth sparks my interests.” said Muñoz who didn’t think twice to help with the donation.

The proceeds from his donation came from all the revenue Pimmex Contracting makes every

year; allotting funds to give back to the Community. Muñoz’s team has contributed to four other GRIC departments throughout the holiday season, distributing new shoes to the youth, donating blankets to the

elders, and hiring a Santa Claus to visit the Head start school programs throughout the districts.

Other sponsorships for the TSS Toy Drive included Gila River Resorts & Casinos, the District 3 Service

Center and Elder Program, Gila River Health Care and other programs throughout the Community assisting TSS in spreading generosity and holiday cheer for the youth and adults.



Director of GRIC Tribal Social Services Kelly Vickrey is presented with the donation from Pimmex President, Carlos Muñoz, District 5, along with Assistant Project Manager of Pimmex Kris Lewis, District 4, on Dec. 16, 2023. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Honey Garlic Green Beans

Recipe Courtesy of Taste of Home

Servings: 8
Approx. Serving Size: 3/4 cup

Prepping Time: 8 min

Cooking Time: 12 min

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tbs honey
- 2 tbs reduced sodium soy sauce
- 4 garlic cloves (minced)
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 lbs fresh green beans (trimmed)

NUTRITION FACTS

72 calories, 0 fat, 0 cholesterol, 225mg sodium, 18g carbohydrate (12g sugars, 4g fiber), 2g protein

DIRECTIONS

1. Whisk together first 5 ingredients; set aside. In a 6-qt. stockpot, bring 10 cups water to a boil. Add beans in batches; cook, uncovered, just until crisp-tender, 2-3 minutes. Remove beans and immediately drop into ice water. Drain and pat dry.
2. Coat stockpot with cooking spray. Add beans; cook, stirring constantly, over high heat until slightly blistered, 2-3 minutes. Add sauce; continue stirring until beans are coated and sauce starts to evaporate slightly, 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat.

Recipe

TITLE Honey-Thyme Butternut Squash

PREP TIME 10 min **COOK TIME** 20 min **TOTAL TIME** 30 min

SERVES 10

Ingredients

1 large butternut squash (about 5 pounds), peeled and cubed

1/4 cup butter, cubed

3 tablespoons half-and-half cream

2 tablespoons honey

2 teaspoons dried parsley flakes

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon dried thyme

1/8 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper

Directions

1. In a large saucepan, bring 1 in. of water to a boil. Add squash; cover and cook for 10-15 minutes or until tender.
2. Drain. Mash squash with the remaining ingredients.

Nutrition Facts:

Per Serving (3/4 cup): 145 calories, 5g fat (3g saturated fat), 14mg cholesterol, 161mg sodium, 26g carbohydrate (9g sugars, 7g fiber), 2g protein

Recipe Courtesy of Taste of Home

Announcements & Notices

Public Notice: Application for Federal Financial Assistance Contact: Dawn M. Coomer, dawn.coomer@gric.nsn.us

January 5, 2024

Public notice is hereby made that Gila River Indian Community is applying for federal financial assistance to provide public transportation service in all seven districts. Service is deviated fixed-route and operates weekdays, excluding holidays, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Gila River Transit operates four routes. Due to lack of staff, routes are not running as scheduled. Service will be restored as staff are hired. The Sacaton Shuttle and West End Shuttle started in early 2016. The Sacaton Shuttle serves District 3 and the West End Shuttle serves Districts 6 and 7. Two additional shuttles started in April 2019. The East Side Shuttle serves Districts 1, 2 and 3, and the Central Shuttle serves Districts 3, 4 and 5.

Public notice is further made that Gila River Indian Community is also applying for federal financial assistance to expand public transportation services. Currently the East Side Shuttle is scheduled to run two days per week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Central Shuttle is scheduled to run three days per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We hope to run service five days a week on these shuttles with operating funding obtained from the grant application, after a federally-funded transit bus is delivered and staff are hired.

The transportation service will be available to the general public during all hours of operation. The project is expected to be financed by FTA Section 5311 Rural Program public transportation funds, with additional funds provided from Gila River Indian Community tribal funds. The total federal share of operating funds is expected to be approximately \$860,000 for the October 2025 through September 2026 period.

Gila River Indian Community ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided with regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with

the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information regarding our Title VI/ADA obligations or to file a complaint, please contact Ms. Coomer at the address below.

Comments on the grant application are invited from the general public, private bus and taxi companies, other public transportation providers and human service agencies. **Interested parties may comment or obtain more details by writing to: Dawn M. Coomer, Transportation Manager, Gila River Indian Community, Department of Transportation, PO Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147. Comments are also taken by sending email to dawn.coomer@gric.nsn.us, or by calling Ms. Coomer at (520) 562-6306.**

Human service agencies that receive assistance from other federal agencies for non-emergency transportation services are encouraged to participate and coordinate with Gila River Transit in the planning, design and delivery of transportation services. Agencies may obtain copies of the service description and submit proposals for service coordination. Private bus and taxi operators may request copies of the project service description from the above named person and may submit comments on the service as described.

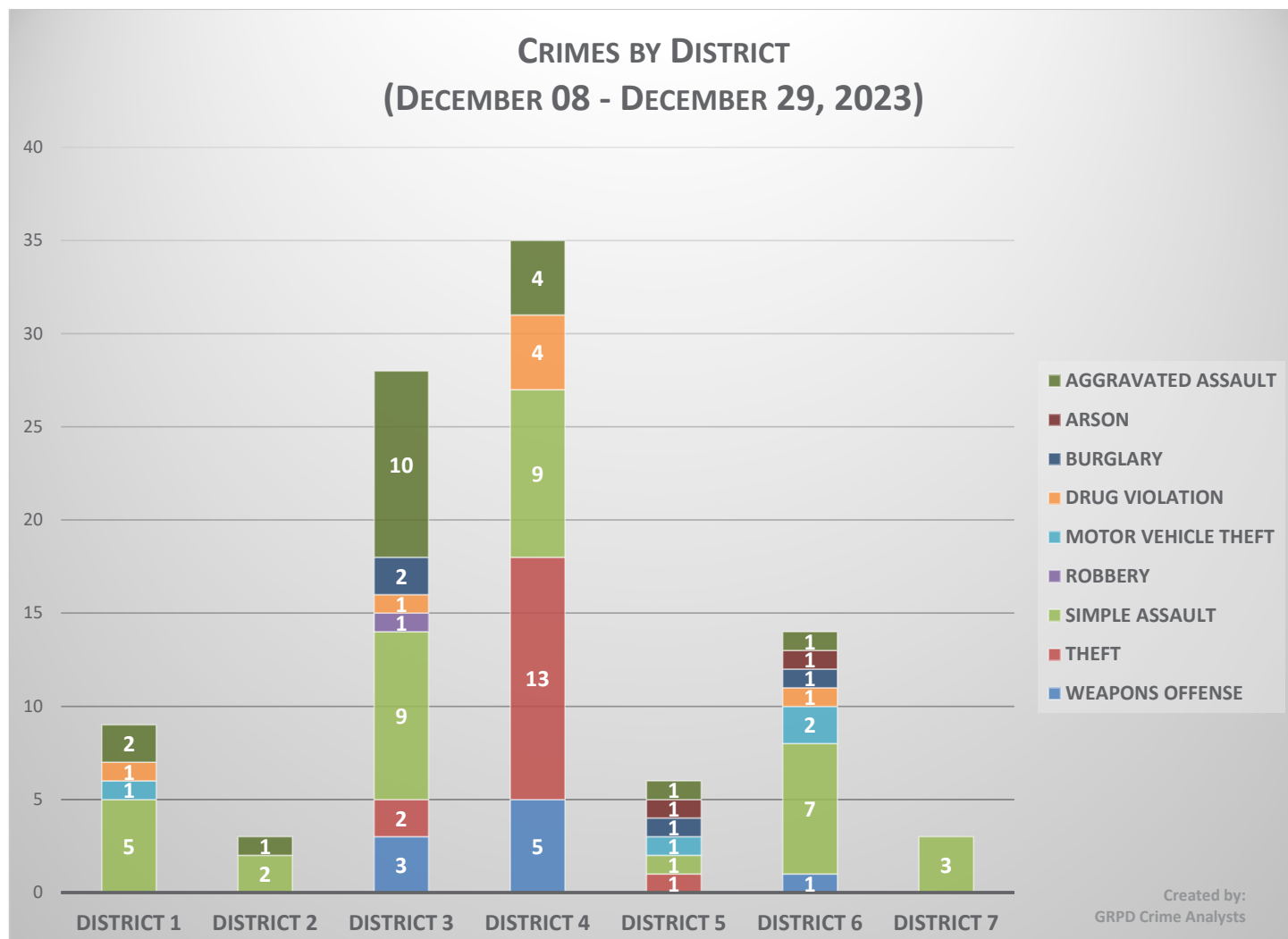
If you wish to comment on any aspect of the proposed project, submit a proposal, request service coordination, or request a public hearing on this project, you must make your interest known in writing 15 calendar days of the date of this publication and provide your comments within 15 calendar days of your receipt of the project service description. Your requests and/or comments must be sent to Ms. Coomer at the contact information above.

GILA RIVER TRANSIT
(520) 562-6020 | GILARIVERTRANSIT.COM



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

GRIN Blotter (12/29/2023)



****NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT****

RESIDENT NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2024

The Community's Residency Ordinance requires all adults (18 years of age and older) who are not enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community, but who reside within the boundaries of the Community to register their residency.

- ✓ All non-member residents 18 years of age and older who reside within the boundaries of the Community must register their residency with the Enrollment Department by January 31st each year.
- ✓ Previously registered non-member residents will receive a renewal form by mail. All other non-member residents should contact the Enrollment Department.
- ✓ The Registration Form maybe submitted in person at the Enrollment Office, a photo ID is required.
- ✓ Registration Forms can be submitted by email, fax or mail. Notary required.



Contact Information:

Mailing Address:
PO Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Physical Address:
525 W Gu U Ki
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Phone: (520) 562-9790 | Fax: (520) 562-8103
Email: enrollment.dept@gric.nsn.us



JANUARY 6 | 8PM

AMERICAN HIGHWAYMEN

AT WILD HORSE PASS



JANUARY 13 | 8PM

THE ELTON JOHN EXPERIENCE

CANDLE IN THE WIND

AT VEE QUIVA



JANUARY 20 | 8PM

ONE OF THESE NIGHTS

EAGLES EXPERIENCE

AT WILD HORSE PASS



FEBRUARY 10 | 8PM

DON MCLEAN

AT WILD HORSE PASS

**MORE
UPCOMING
SHOWS**

FEB 23 | GARTH LIVE! *AT WILD HORSE PASS*

FEB 24 | JEFFREY OSBORNE *AT WILD HORSE PASS*

FEB 25 | TURN THE PAGE *AT WILD HORSE PASS*

MAR 8 | PIANO MEN: GENERATIONS *AT WILD HORSE PASS*

GILA RIVER[®]
RESORTS & CASINOS



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

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