Recognizing the Power of Youth Leadership

GRIC’s Akimel O’odham/Pee Posht Youth Council inaugurates new members

By Mihio Manus, GRIN Managing Editor

SACATON—Gila River Indian Community is well known across Native America for having established one of the first tribally funded and recognized youth councils. In addressing the audience at the 2010 Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council Inauguration, GRIC Governor William R. Rhodes elaborated by saying, “We’ve become a model to many other tribes. I can’t think of a tribe that doesn’t have a youth council.”

Thus, it was with great respect and dignity that 20 Community youth took the oath of office, administered by the Honorable Harriet James, and became part of a legacy that extends 22 years back.

Historically Speaking

According to GRIC Chief of Staff and former Youth Council Coordinator, Greg Mendoza, the formation of the youth council harkens back to ‘87 when a group of concerned youth came together to speak on issues they were facing throughout the Community. Several young people in the Community organized their efforts out of concern for youth not being viewed as a high priority. The intent was to start a grassroots organization that would redefine youth-adult relationships by increasing the level of respect between adults and youth. The motivation was there. The youth wanted to do something.

“As one of the founders, there were about ten of us,” Mendoza said. “It was during 1987 to 1988 that we did a lot of outreach within the Community.”

With the administration allowing them funds toward supporting the first youth council, Mendoza, as the first Youth Council Coordinator, was tasked with establishing the articles of association and developing the Youth Council’s bylaws, essentially, some people were skeptical about this. However as the youth council evolved it provided outreach throughout the districts making people aware that the youth council’s primary intention was to serve as the formal voice for youth of the Community. These early efforts were not in vain as they led to the tribal administration appropriating funds toward supporting the first Akimel O’odham Youth Conference in August of 1987. “It was at that particular youth conference that we brought in over 300 youth,” Mendoza said. “It was an exciting time. That’s how the youth council evolved. It evolved from the first tribal youth conference.”

It was under the administration of Thomas White in ’88 that the youth council was able to gain support in appropriating money to establish an office to serve as the Youth Affairs office. During this administration Governor Rhodes was serving as Lt. Governor. The administration was able to fund a full time Youth Council Coordinator position.

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O’odham/Pee Posht Youth Council Vision Statement

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Congratulations to our winners!

GRTI attended the Annual GRIC Halloween Party for the children at the GRIC Governance Center. Gila River Departments and GRTI offered treats to over 300 Community children. We raffled off a DVD player & movie package. Here are the winners!

Penny Norris of GRIC Percapita Office won a $75 AMC gift card. A nice Halloween surprise for the family, (or Thanksgiving).

Grand Prize winner Francine Sieweyumptewa from GRIC Enrollment won the portable DVD player and movies.

Who is calling for the Holidays?

It's the holidays and you want to hear from family and friends. But to make sure you don't miss any important calls, you can use these calling features on your home phone. Have a great Thanksgiving holiday!

- **Call Waiting $3.00** - Allows you to answer an incoming calls while you are on the phone.
- **Call Waiting ID $5.50** - Allows you to answer the next incoming call while on the phone and will display the calling party's number.
- **Caller ID $3.50** - Phone number of caller is shown on telephone display.

To activate any of these features, contact GRTI Customer Service at 796-3333. Reminder: customers must keep their payment arrangements to keep their phone service on. The December 1st bill received in the mail, that payment is due by December 15th. Stay in touch, keep your phone service.
Youth Council from Page 1

Acolades

It is important to note that in 2002, the Honoring Nations program, which is administered by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, recognized the Akimel O’odham/Pee Posh Youth Council with High Honors.

Forging Two Decades Ahead

In her speech as outgoing President of the Akimel O’odham/Pee Posh Youth Council, Kristin Dosela noted the accomplishments of those council members who had pursued their education by finishing high school and going on to college.

“We’ve been able to do so much,” Dosela said. “I’m proud of our youth council and the new members. They will represent their families with grace.”

Exemplifying the correlation between the youth council and the GRIC Community Council, Barney Enos, D4 Councilman, was chosen as keynote speaker for the inauguration. With words steeped in his time as a council representative, Enos delivered a hard-fast speech urging the young leaders to take the reigns in creating change.

“Realize that things will change. It’s inevitable,” he said. “As young leaders you can be apart of it or you can watch it. It passes you by.”

The D4 Councilman encouraged the youth to take into account the perspective of others while being firm about what they believe in. “Prepare today to win tomorrow,” he said. “Practice makes perfect.”

Enos closed by urging the council to represent at one hundred percent and never at half speed.

As former Youth Council president, Michael Preston spoke from experience when telling the audience that youth council members fulfill multiple roles during their tenure. Preston is the current Youth Council Coordinator and said that although the O’odham are taught to not be boastful, it is his job to boast about the accomplishments of the youth council.

“They put in work, they attend weekend meetings and still they carry on their lives as students,” he said.

Preston congratulated this past year’s council for presenting a Youth Summit for Understanding where they gathered both natives and non-natives to address misconceptions regarding Native Americans and their cultures. The summit was one example of the youth council’s leadership role in addressing an issue that faces both Community members and Native Americans across the nation. They sought about understanding and not foster misconception or adversity.

Hendricks as the audience proceeds to shake the hands of the newly appointed council members.

Having served as vice president in ’09-10, Lisa Hendricks from Hashan Kehk was elected into the position of Youth Council President. A graduate of Coolidge High School, Hendricks currently attends Central Arizona College.

Expressing endeavors gratitude to her time with council, Hendricks said, “I’m grateful for the friendships I’ve forged through participation in Youth Council. I’ve served under previous leaders like Daryl Lynn Jay and Darius Enos. I promise to give my all to Youth Council.”

Closing out the ceremony, GRIC Lt. Governor Thomas White delivered a hard-fast speech urging the young leaders to take the reigns in creating change.

“In order to move forward we have to protect our investments. We have to protect gaming,” Manuel said. “It’s akin to our water now. It provides for us.”

Manuel also reinforced to the youth council that as a community it’s imperative that everyone look out for each other. “We go up together. We have to help our relatives as we move forward.”

Messages of unity, camaraderie and focused perseverance were given by all who addressed the incoming nominees.

Governor Rhodes acknowledged the growth that he has seen coming from youth council by noting that three former youth council members have gone on to take seats as GRIC Council members.

“An honor for the children to be nominated,” he said. “I’m very proud of the youth and I will do what I can to support them. I urge you to continue to support the youth.”

The Akimel O’odham/Pee Posh Youth Council operationalize the following activities for hands-on engagement of active participants in the political setting.

Gila River Close Up:

This annual event explores the rights and responsibilities of tribal member’s involvement in American and tribal government. Gila River Close Up is an education and leadership project for high school Community youth to promote participation in government process.

Gila River Kids Voting:

The Gila River Kids Voting project feature specially designed curricula for grades K – 12 and culminates with Community youth accompanying parents to the voting place on tribal Election Day to cast their ballot in simulated election. The purpose is to instill lifelong habits in youth and boost voter turnout among future adults.

Gila River Youth Conference:

The Gila River Youth Conference is held annually for Community youth and draws an average 500 youth. An intense two-day gathering of addressing the issues arose during the year with regards to input from youth leaders and recommendation to tribal leaders. During this time changes to the polices may be raised, new officers may be elected, and the direction of the council may be set for the upcoming year. This activity promotes youth leadership and communication, while building confidence and self-esteem.
Benning in general. With the students, Benning fielded questions from students, Norby and Jenny Miller. During her visit, the classes of fourth grade teachers Tammy Hatfield and Lisa Chacon were given a book by the author. The book was written by Benning, who made a surprise visit to the fourth grade classroom. She was accompanied by her mother and a principal of Gila Crossing Community School.

The visit was to distribute the book she wrote, “Arizona: Nations and Art.” The book was written by Benning, who is 15 years old. It’s the only book she’s written thus far. When asked if she’d write another book, she told the students that she does. However, she said she wouldn’t write another book anytime soon. For now, she would like to concentrate on her coursework at a local community college.

In speaking about her experiences writing the book, Benning said, “I definitely learned a lot. I didn’t know anything about Native American Culture. I had to do a lot of research and fact checking.”

GRIC Lt. Governor, Joseph Manuel had also made time in his schedule to visit with both Benning and the students of Gila Crossing. “Governor Rhodes and I found it very important to support this book. We’re glad to see our tribal seal in the book.”

Lt. Governor Manuel encouraged the students to keep up their reading skills and continue on with their education. “Benning’s contribution is in supporting her endeavor.”

SACATON-In recognition of October being Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness month, GRIC’s Tribal Social Services (TSS) and Crime Victim Services hosted a bar- beque at Ira H. Hayes Park with themed activities and presentations revolving around domestic violence prevention.

Domestic violence is a social ill that plagues many communities, Native American and otherwise. It’s a serious problem with severe consequences on both the victims and perpetrators. Accordingly, TSS focused on emphasizing stories from victims and the services that are available to those in the Community in need of help.

Members of the audience along with staff from TSS participated in a role-playing activity. A hypothetical victim of domestic violence went down the line trying to find help within various departments and also from Community officials.

At first the responses were unsympathetic and indifferent toward the victim where many people brushed off the plight of the battered woman. This example modeled what not to do from the viewpoint of those who provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. While encouraging the victims to foster courage and be assertive in their claims.

The scenario was played out a second time with the departments and officials showing empathy and being more assistive in helping the victim. The second scenario was an example of how the system should work when a victim seeks help from outside programs.

Present at the program was D4 Councilman John Antone. He elaborated on the fact that domestic violence and harassment can exist outside the family and can extend into the workplace. Antone said that the steps should be taken when Community members become apathetic and desensitized to domestic violence it makes it harder for those seeking help to escape the cycle of violence.

“I am a certain cases people accept it.” he said “And that’s unfortunate.”

Antone urged the audience to talk with their children about domestic violence to make them aware of its terrible nature. “It might seem like they don’t listen but they are listening.”

Bringing the point home, D2 resident, Candace Johns read a poem about how self-destruction and self-deprecation are byproducts of domestic violence wherein a victim’s self-esteem hits an all time low and they start to hate themselves for enduring the abuse.

At a series of presentations filled with strong statements about the severity of domestic violence.

Johns, a survivor of domestic violence, went on to tell her story about being abused and how she mentally normalized the occurrences as a coping mechanism to get through the most difficult period which turned into years.

In her story, Johns said, “The beatings got so bad that when I got hit in the face I could feel my bones crack. I had to live with that. I had to live with the pain.”

She went on to say that many women feel like this. They feel like they have no one to turn to. In her case, the beatings were frequent but she never pressed charges and the police started to brush off her calls for help. “They thought I was crying wolf. When the police officers were called in they would joke with my husband. I couldn’t even go to the police.”

Eventually, and after a severe beating, Johns became fearful for her life. She called her family and told them what happened. Her family told her they would call the police but she couldn’t lie about who had abused her. “I couldn’t lie anymore,” she said. “This was the last time they would help me.”

Since that day she never went back. “I sought counseling and help from domestic violence programs here in the Community. Help is available. It’s out there.”

With the help of her family and community programs, Johns was triumphantly escaping her situation.

Crime Victim Services is a program within TSS that seeks to help those who have been subjected to domestic violence. For further information please contact Crime Victim Services at (520) 562-4106.

Teen author Annica Benning visits Gila Crossing to give books to students

Top: Candace Johns shared her story with the participants and audience at the Domestic Violence Awareness program held at Ira H. Hayes Park. Johns imparted a tale of desperation with a conclusion of triumph. Below: Staff and audience members participate in a role playing activity.

RIGHT: Teen author Annica Benning talks with students from Gila Crossing Community School about her book Arizona: Nations and Art. Left: Annica stands along side Lt. Governor, Joseph Manuel. Benning expressed her gratitude to the Community for assisting her in funding the book. She provided a copy to each of the students in the fourth grade.
Former marine sets out to walk perimeter of US

By Jeri Thomas, GRIN staff

Hours of solitude helps to quell an unfulfilled dream to be a career Marine. Eddie Gray, 35, of Ashland, Mont., and member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, set out on foot on Apr. 3, 2008 to walk the perimeter of the United States in support of fellow comrades.

Gray has been in Sacaton for a few weeks and is making his way along I-10 to Jacksonville, Fla. then onward to the next legs that will take him to Sheridan, Wyo. close to Ashland, and back to the doorstep of his aunt’s home.

After high school graduation Gray enlisted and trained at Parris Island, SC. An epiphany came to Gray during a mock attack. It dawned on him “if this was real, who is it that I would die for. And, ‘do Americans really know what we do?’ It was a scary forethought, he said.

Gray was never deployed. He was medically discharged in 2000 after a fluke accident left him with a broken sternum and a member of the zipper club, he said.

Back home in Montana, Gray said he was on inactive ready reserve. “Then 9-11 happened. That is when every one enlisted,” he said. Gray was never called although “he wanted to get some. That’s Marine lingo,” he said.

Instead he worked as a jumper firefighter with the Forest Service. Gray said he loved it because they use military codes, always carry a backpack, and always wear boots.

Gray has been walking since that fateful April day in 2008 and has been welcomed by American legions and tribal organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest and California.

Gila River Indian Community is the 73rd tribal organization he has visited. Gray carries mementos along the way then ships them home when the opportunity arises.

There is no timetable for the trek, but there are logistics, somewhat.

Gray makes contact with various agencies prior to his arrival. Gray spoke alongside the Mayor of Carmel and met with the Lt. Governor of California. According to Gray, the media frenzy over SB 1070 kept the Arizona governor’s schedule busy this past summer.

Legionnaires and tribal officials welcome Gray to participate at local events. Gray said he walks up to 50 miles from his destination to visit a post or tribal organization. He follows major thoroughfares and “in this region, coming from Montana, I hike at night due to the heat,” he said. His backpack is filled with basic living essentials. Occasionally the generosity of others puts a few dollars in his pocket, a roof over his head, or a meal under his belt.

When asked, “what has been the most memorable experience so far?” In Arizona, Gray said it has to be the earthquake he experienced while he was in Welton on Easter Sunday. “It was my birthday. I was waiting for church services and I thought the backpack was causing back spasms,” Gray said.

He also said that making it to the Ira Hayes Park was moving. “Marines are close,” he said. “It’s like we’re brothers. You get two Marines in a room and they gravitate toward each other and hit it off.”

Gray sometimes pitches a tent under the night sky. At times a tent is not required. Gray shared a snapshot of a view through tall brush off a cliff overlooking ocean waves lapping a shoreline.

When asked of his journey, “do you think this is a coping mechanism” to which he said, “it is, in terms of I lost buddies.” Gray said.

And, “I should have been there too,” referring to Iraq and Afghanistan, a phrase Gray repeated several times.

Gray talks with young and old alike and on occasion with vets who are in the midst of physical rehabilitation. The backpack Gray carries is a token from Cpl. Rick Hyder, a tall, burly Army soldier.

In it Gray discovered a computer device with images of soldiers in fatigues, “special forces,” Gray said, posing in Iraq or Afghanistan. “I might return it, depending on where,” Gray said.

At one point Gray quoted from the book The Alchemist, a fable that says if you dream a dream the universe conspires to help you. “Things will fall into place,” Gray said.

Next on his wish list Gray hopes to continuously walk The Silk Road from China to Europe, ending in Afghanistan, he said.

For more information visit: www.EddieGrayWalksAmerica.Net

Upper left: In his trek across the nation, Gray has gone through four pairs of Nike tennis shoes but the Marine ultimately prefers hiking boots. Above: While in Sacaton, Eddie Gray visited the Ira H. Hayes Park.
Know your mortgage readiness

By Jeri Thomas, GRIN staff

Do you dream of building a home on the reservation? Or would you rather purchase a home in Pinal or Maricopa County? The dream to own a home is closer to reality than most people know.

The Department of Community Housing presented its Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Program to GRIC membership at an orientation recently held in D3.

GRIC’s Director of Community Housing, Nellie Gilmore addresses the assembled audience at the D3 Service Center for the Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Program orientation.

Factors such as capacity and credit will be weighed during pre-qualifying consultations. To qualify for down payment assistance, individuals may be required to reduce debt or satisfy derogatory credit and have earnest money on hand. According to Little, “by the time they leave, they will know their mortgage readiness.”

Little said up to 50%, or 50 percent of the purchase price can be realized through HUD grants through the Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act of 1996.

GRIC Resolution GR193-08 adopted guidelines to endorse the NAHASDA Down Payment/Closing Cost Program.

As much as $358,000 has been expended and to date 10 families purchased homes in Maricopa and Pinal Cos. According to Little, $450,000 remains to be gifted.

The process can take as little as 60 days to close a fee simple purchase. Alternatively, new construction on conventional loans.

Qualified participants may be eligible to enter into mortgage loans that can be guaranteed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

A. The program allows for regular stick built homes, modular and manufactured homes as well as new construction.

The program is restricted to counties that are identified as being within an Indian Operating Area. These eligible lending areas are constantly being updated. For more information please contact our office.

Qualification for the Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Program orientation.

GRIN/Jeri Thomas

Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program (Section 184) F.A.Q.s

Q. Who is eligible for the program?
A. American Indians and Alaskan Natives who are members of federally recognized tribes. You must have a Tribal Membership Card. Also, Native American Tribes, Tribal Housing Authorities and Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible.

Q. What types of financing are available?
A. The program can be used for the purchase of a new or existing home, refinancing or construction.

Q. Is there a minimum credit score requirement for qualifying?
A. There is no credit score requirement. However, your overall credit will be reviewed by an underwriter to determine eligibility. Generally, the most recent 12 months are most important. All accounts should reflect an on-time pay history for the last 12 months.

Q. What if I have filed bankruptcy?
A. HUD requires 2 years to have passed since the discharge of your bankruptcy. You should not have any late payments on your credit report since the bankruptcy.

Q. What about outstanding collections or charged off accounts?
A. All collection accounts must be paid off prior to loan submission. This includes medical collections. Accounts that are charged off but still reflect a balance owed must also be paid off.

Q. What is the minimum down payment?
A. 2.25% of the purchase price on loan amounts over $50,000. For loan amounts under $50,000 the minimum required down payment is 1.25%.

Q. Can the down payment be a gift?
A. Yes. The down payment can be gifted from a relative, employer or an approved non-profit organization. Down payments can also be granted from tribal housing programs.

Q. How can I find out about tribal down payment assistance?
A. Since each Tribe has different programs and procedures, we encourage you to contact your tribal housing office directly to find out what programs they might have available.

Q. Do I have to pay Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI)?
A. No. There is no monthly PMI required for this loan. There is a 1% funding fee paid to HUD. This fee is financed and included as part of the loan. This fee is less than the fee charged for other government programs such as V A, FHA and Rural Development loans.

Q. Where can I use this loan program?
A. HUD has identified many states in their entirety as “Indian Operating Areas”. Within these states, there is no restriction as to where the program can be used. In other states, the program is restricted to counties that are identified as being within an Indian Operating Area. These eligible lending areas are constantly being updated. For more information please contact our office.

Q. Can the loan be used for properties on trust lands?
A. Yes. The program can be used for properties located on tribal trust land, individual allotted trust land or fee simple land.

Q. What types of homes are acceptable?
A. The program allows for construction on fee simple and allotment land.

First Time Home Buyers

Pinal and Maricopa County Only

Up to $50,000.00 for Income Qualified GRIC Tribal Members

The purpose of the Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Program is to encourage home ownership. The Gila River Indian Community (“Community”) Department of Community Housing (“DCH”) will utilize NAHASDA funds for eligible program applicants, and provide assistance up to $50,000.00 or 10 percent of any down payment required from a new home buyer, based upon the client’s income eligibility. The DCH receives funding through the HUD’s Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act (“NAHASDA”); which it utilizes to fund the Affordable Housing Assistance Program (“AHAP”).

The funds allocated can be utilized towards mortgage financing opportunities for GRIC members. The purpose of the NAHASDA AHAP Assistance is to provide a forgivable loan product that is a current need in the GRIC. The assistance shall not exceed $50,000 per loan for a 30 year term. No interest rates are utilized in this program. The Community may require a promissory note or other legal instrument to secure the Community’s interest.

Call Today for a Free Consultation.

Ernie Little – DCH Loan Officer
Phone: (520) 562 – 3904
Fax: (520) 562 – 3927
E-mail: ernie.little@dch.grin.us
GRFD assists San Carlos Apache tribe in teaching fire safety

By Jean Reed, Fire & Life Safety Educator

The Gila River Fire Department is composed of half Native Community members who are extensively trained in the areas of: structural and wild land fire operations, Hazard Material response and mitigation and special training for rescue and vehicle extrication. Also, all department members must be Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and or Paramedic certified. The Fire Department is designed as a para-military organization in order to instill discipline within the rank and file while dealing with chaotic incidents and events that require focus and discipline to save lives and remain safe during the operation. The department is comprised of three separate, but complementary divisions; Administration, Prevention and Operations. Administration handles the daily needs of planning, support and mechanical functions of the department. The Operations Division is the response section; this is the largest division that responds to all calls and types of incidents. Fire Prevention is the last division. The Prevention Division encompasses building plans review, code development and enforcement, Fire and Explosives Investigation and Public Education.

To maintain focus and keep up with the changes in technology, everyone must constantly train, learning new techniques and hone their skills. Your life and theirs depend on it.

October is “Fire Prevention Month” which is a very busy month for everyone in the department. The Department received a request from the San Carlos Apache Tribe’s Wild Land Fire Division to bring our Fire Safety “EDITH” House to help teach fire safety to the Head Start children and 1st to 3rd graders. EDITH is an acronym for Exit Drills In The Home. The EDITH House was purchased over ten years ago with grant monies to teach these same programs here in the Community. Additionally, they provide valuable teachings to the urban community too. Along with the children’s programs, the team is involved in putting out the Fire Safety Message all over the Community at teachers in-service, youth conferences and elders meetings. We are very thankful for our Community and the support it provides us to do our job to the best of our abilities.

Thank you again. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Reed as listed below.

Gila River Fire Department
3082 N. Maricopa Road
P.O. Box 5083
Chandler Arizona
(520) 796-5900
By Roberto A. Jackson, GRIN Reporter

Gila River Fire Department received a call from the St. Peter’s Mission inquiring about the availability of the Fire Department to bring out our Ladder Truck and paint the cross on top of the Church. Apparently the department had done this nearly 10 years ago when we had a ladder truck. Currently the GRFD does not have a Ladder that can reach the cross and perform the task requested.

A quick phone call to our neighbors at the City of Maricopa Fire Department solved the dilemma. Fire Chief Wade Brannon was more than glad to assist. The following morning Maricopa Fire Department’s Battalion Chief Ken Pantoja and the Ladder Crew arrived at St. Peter’s Mission as requested.

The Maricopa Firefighters were joined by Gila River Crews as the Ladder company got straight to work on painting the cross. They had to work with an audience as all of the Mission staff and children cheered them on. What a sight and an outpouring of community service from our partners.

Miss Gila Crossing Amber Pablo and her court dedicated a dance to the esteemed guests and also welcomed them and thanked them for their time in the military.

The first Miss Gila Crossing pageant occurred last month and the young ladies are settling in nicely in their new roles. School board member Priscilla Antone commented that she is very proud of the new Miss Gila Crossing, her attendants and supporters. School Board President Robin Fohrenkam noted that at the pageant the young ladies were shy but they are swiftly developing important social skills that will aid them during their reign and in the future.

Fohrenkam also stated that the new Miss Gila Crossing Royalty has a lot of leadership to follow as an example with the two of the last three Miss Gila Rivers, Miss Indian Arizona 2009-2010 and the current Miss ASU all hailing from D6; not to mention Miss Caesar Chavez and Miss Betty Fairfax also being Community members.

After the Veterans Day Celebration Miss Gila Crossing Amber Pablo, seventh grade, said that she will be using her time wearing the crown to preserve the beauty of the landscape and buildings by, “trying to clean up the environment, and making sure no one tags or does vandalism.”

Pablo and her court have mostly been schoolmates since preschool. Brianna Thomas was named 1st Attendant and MaryJane Sundust will serve as 2nd Attendant. Alex Allison and Grace Villareal-Hernasy were named as Supporters.

Gila Crossing’s first royal court are a tight knit group who are serving as role models and learning important skills by following the example of other Gila River title holders. First Row L to R: 1st Attendant Brianna Thomas, Miss Gila Crossing Amber Pablo, 2nd Attendant MaryJane Sundust. Back Row L to R: Supporters Alexa Allison and Grace Villareal-Hernasy.
Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 presents quilt to Caring House in honor of veterans

By Roberto A. Jackson, GRIN Reporter

SACATON-The Ira Hamilton Hayes American Legion Post 84 dedicated a finely crafted quilt to honor veterans and the elders residing in the Caring House on Nov. 9, 2010. Post Commander Manuel Hernandez, and Caring House Administrator Mark Klein unveiled the quilt before visitors and residents in the main lobby following an outdoor Veteran’s Day presentation that included prayers songs and thankfulness to US veterans.

Honour Guard member Leonard Enoe spoke on behalf of veterans and acknowledged the men and women who left to serve never to return. “Those of us that survived, we live for them, we do for them.”

Certificates of appreciation were given to veterans following D4 Council Representative Rebecca Rowe’s rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner and Amazing Grace.

Once in the lobby, Commander Hernandez recognized the sacrifices of all Native Americans and in particular Gila River. “Our people have always contributed.”

Commander Hernandez also presented a plaque that said, “This quilt is a dedication to the Gila River Health Care Facility in appreciation of all the love and dedicated commitment taken towards respectfully caring for the elders of the Gila River Indian Community.”

The quilt has a dark red border and a star radiates from the center in our national colors of red, white and blue.

“Star one I believe will serve as our guiding light to continue our mission to provide the highest quality care to the elders of the Gila River Indian Community,” said Klein.

E&T’s 8th Annual Career Fair connects employers with workforce

By Roberto A. Jackson, GRIN Reporter

SACATON-The Employment & Training Department (E&T) held their 18th Annual Career Job Fair on Oct. 29, 2010 on Skill Center Rd. Over 250 job seekers interfaced with 15 hiring employers and nine vocational training schools.

The employment driven fair also featured 66 vendors, five GRIC departments with participation from the Tohono O’odham Nation. The feedback was very positive from employers.

Officer Fabian Terry. GRPD K-9 Unit by Police

There was also a career and educational exploration, job readiness, case management, and certifications can also be obtained.

Drive. Items will go directly to the disadvantaged youth of Gila River during the holidays.

Co-Op Village Pima Basket Dancers attend Cocopah Cultural Celebration Day

Submitted by Lino Valdez

YUMA-Cocopah Cultural Celebration Day was held Oct. 16, 2010 in Yuma, Ariz. Representing GRIC at the festivities were the Co-Op Village Pima Basket Dancers lead by resident of the Co-Op Village and founder of the group, Yolanda Elías.

The annual event is held on the west reservation at the Cocopah Cultural Center and Cocopah Museum.

According to a news release regarding the Cultural Day, since the opening of the Cocopah Tribal Museum and Cultural Center in October 1996, the Cocopah Museum and the Elders Cultural Council members have commemorated this day each year with a celebration.

“This event serves many opportunities - not only as a special gathering time for the Cocopah people - but to share our culture through music, dance and historical perspective,” said Lisa Wanstall, director of the Cocopah Museum. “It’s an opportunity to meet new friends.”

It is a day to recognize, respect and enjoy the tribe’s cultural identities and history.

According to the release, each year, the museum features a new exhibit in honor of the celebration.

Those in the group picture are as follows; bottom left and right are the two youngest of the group holding the banner, Alize Gutierrez and Alexis Juan; 2nd row: Vila Rae Huerta the reigning Miss Indian Phoenix Union H.S., Carla Juan, Reynelda Blackwater, Josey Blackwater, Inez Huerta, Anna Blackwater reining Miss Indian Fairfax H.S., and Cheyenne Jackson reining Miss Cesar Chavez H.S.; Top row: Donovan Kyyitan, instrument and vocals of the group, Yolanda Elías, leader and conductor who also helps with vocals, Marlene Elías, Valentina Juan.

In the top photograph, Yolanda Elías and Donovan Kyyitan sing at the Cocopah Cultural Celebration Day.
Do you know what diabetes is? Do you know that diabetes is never pro-
longed, it is preventable? Diabetes is a disease that allows sugar to remain in the
blood. When food is eaten your body breaks it down into glucose
(sugar in the blood). Your pancreas then produces a hormone called “In-
sulin” and releases it into the blood-
stream. Naturally the insulin will unlock your beta cells and allow the
glucose to enter the cell which forms energy for the body. In a person with
diabetes; their beta cells will have no
response to the insulin also known as “Insulin Resistance” therefore allowing
the glucose (sugar) to remain in the
blood. There are many steps that you
can take to either prevent diabetes or
to maintain it at a healthy level such as
a healthy diet, regular exercise, taking
your prescribed medication, and ob-
taining health education.

Every year the Public Health Educa-
tion program launches the “Take the
Challenge; What Do You Know about Diabetes?” trivia campaign to help im-
prove knowledge, awareness, skills,
and to provide helpful resources. This
campaign is geared toward the em-
ployees of the Gila River Indian Com-

community. Each business day through out
the month of November we will post a
question pertaining to diabetes and
allow the GRIC employees an oppor-
tunity to answer the question. A de-
tailed answer will be emailed to the
participant. If an employee participates
for an entire week they will qualify to
enter the raffle drawing for that partic-
ular week. The first question will be
posted on November 1, 2010 and the
last question will be posted on No-
vember 30, 2010 excluding all week-
ends and holidays (November 11, 25
& 26, 2010) for a total of 19 questions
to be posted. This trivia campaign is
one of the many innovative ways that
Public Health Education has formu-
lated to help educate on the serious
issue of diabetes. We look forward to
your participation and our continued
service to the Gila River Indian Com-

munity. For more information please
contact Devin Pablo at (520) 550-8000 ext. 229.

Preventing Infections During Blood Sugar Monitoring
and Insulin Use

By Charisse Holiday, Diabetes Educator/Dietitian, Gila River Health Care

Blood sugar monitoring is the use of your Accu-Chek
machine to test your blood sugars. Testing your blood sug-
ars helps guide you and your provider with your diabetes
management. Taking insulin is a form of medication that
requires you to inject a needle into your body. Since check-
ing your blood sugars requires a finger stick to get blood
and since taking insulin requires that you inject a needle, it
is very important that you take extra caution when checking
blood sugars and/or giving insulin.

Whether checking your own blood sugars and/or giv-
ing yourself insulin or assisting others in sugar checks
and/or taking insulin, the following are safe practices.
These safe practices prevent the risks of transmitting blood
borne viruses and other infectious diseases.

• Always wash hands before checking blood
sugars or injecting insulin. You can also use an
alcohol based hand sanitizer if you do not have
access to a sink, soap and paper towels. If you
assist others in checking blood sugars, always
wash hands and wear gloves.

• Do not use lancets or finger stick devices for
more than 1 person. Sharing lancets or finger
stick devices raises the risk for blood borne
viruses such as HBV, hepatitis C virus, and HIV).
You can clean and disinfect the lancet device
once a week by placing it in 70% rubbing alcohol
for 10 minutes. Then, allow the cap to air dry
while using a mild dishwashing soap and a soft
cloth. Do not put the meter in the water. You can
get an Accu-Chek machine at the Life Center
(HuHuKam Memorial Hospital and Komatke
Health Center). See your Accu-Chek owner’s
booklet.

• Do not share insulin needles and vials with
more than 1 person. You should always insert a
new, clean needle into an insulin vial. Sharing
needles raises the risk for blood borne viruses.

• Blood sugar checks and taking insulin (if you are tak-
ing insulin) are both very important for blood sugar man-
agement. Always remember to take extra precaution during
blood sugar checks and taking/giving insulin. If you need
additional information or would like additional training on
blood sugar testing, injecting insulin or with diabetes self-
management, stop by the Life Center or call us to set up an
appointment.

Resources: Centers for Disease Control
Life Center
Diabetes Education
HuHuKam Memorial Hospital: (520) 562 – 7940
Komatke Health Center: (520) 550 - 6221

Halloween Madness at the
Governance Center

Benjamin and Martha Notah
Richard Weschrob
Amanda Mitchell

Members of GRIC’s Law Office

Members of GRIC’s Internal Audit Department
SACATON—Children five years and younger will have better access to early education and health services that prepare them to succeed in school, thanks to a $961,800 check presented by First Things First (FTF) to Community Council on Wed., Oct. 20.

“This check represents the on-going commitment of Arizona’s voters to children in the Gila River Indian Community,” said FTF Board Member Vivian Sanders. “These funds will ensure that more local kids arrive at kindergarten prepared to succeed.”

FTF operates through a local governance model which empowers local volunteers who live or work in the Community to create a system of early childhood development.

FTF funds come from an 80-cent increase on tobacco products approved by voters in 2006 for the express purpose of expanding or enhancing health and education services for kids 5 and younger. Decisions about which services to fund are made by local volunteers with early childhood expertise through the Gila River Regional Partnership Council which assesses the needs of the Community. The specific amount allocated to each region is determined by the number of children under 5 in the area, and how many of those children live in poverty.

“ariz. has ranked at or near the bottom of every indicator of child well being, which is critical since 90 percent or more of a child’s brain is developed by age five. To help support parents and children the Gila River Regional Partnership Council has allocated 48 percent our funding towards family support strategies, 40 percent funding for quality and access to child care and 12 percent for health and professional development,” said Priscilla Foote, chair of Gila River Indian Community Regional Council. There are 31 regional partnership councils statewide which are made up of volunteers who reflect a specific segment of their community.

“Through our 2010 needs and assets report the original partnership council found that the Gila River Indian Community is home to an estimated 2,556 children ages 0 to 5,” added Foote. The findings also estimated that 83 percent of householders are single parents and a large group of grandparents are raising grandchildren.

The check presentation was held at Gila River Governance Center and included Community Council, community leaders, early childhood, health and social service providers as well as family members.

Vivian Sanders, who serves on the FTF statewide board, said it was a privilege to share in the celebration of the commitment Ariz. voters made to our youngest children and of the improved outcomes for kids that are resultant from that commitment.

In 2006 FTF was passed with overwhelming support from voters and made ariz. one of only a handful of states where early childhood education was put to a vote to address the lack of early childhood development services. For the first time in the history of the state, ariz. has a state wide organization focused on expanding and enhancing early childhood and health services for kids.

“It’s really an honor to see the face of FTF and that is the children in the audience and to hear their voices,” said Sanders.

The check will fund services from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 and symbolizes the commitment to ensure children are healthy and prepared when they enter kindergarten.

The regional council will work with community stakeholders for the next three months on a plan to build on the early childhood services already funded in the region and to address other needs of young children in the area.

To learn more about your local regional council and the early childhood services funded by FTF in the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council, please visit: www.azff.gov/GilaRiver.
Breast Cancer in Women of the Gila River Indian Community – A Study Funded by the Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure
By: Adelaide Bahr, GRHC

October is Breast Cancer Month. It is a time to remember and honor the voices of some brave women who told the stories of their experience with this disease. Their voices, like the voices of most people with cancer are often lost in the complexity of the health care system. In order to understand the experience of the women, a study was conducted by Gila River Health Care (GRHC), members of Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), researchers from the Mayo Clinic, and an independent researcher. The study was called “Understanding the Lived Experience of Being Diagnosed with Breast Cancer in the Gila River Indian Community and Selecting Cancer Treatments” and was funded by the Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure.

The goal of the study was to interview women who had been diagnosed with breast cancer and to have them tell their stories in order for others to understand what they experienced, what decisions they had to make, where they found their strength, and what helped them to endure. Educational sessions about breast cancer and the introduction of the research study were held in the Community prior to talking directly with breast cancer patients. A total of 7 Community members who were diagnosed with breast cancer between 1999 and 2005 were interviewed about their experiences by Pattie King, a cancer advocate from the Gila River Indian Community and Jody Pelusi, an oncology nurse and researcher.

Results from the study revealed that women kept true to their cultural beliefs and practices, as well as remained dedicated to their role in the Community as mothers, grandmothers, friends and wives. Faith and belief in self as women were the main coping mechanisms which kept them focused on healing and living. Daughters were the key support person in their lives and in facilitating their care.

The idea for the study came from Ms. Pattie King, a Community member and former cancer services advocate, and Dr. Adelaide Bahr, a physician at Gila River Health Care. Community members who were part of the advisory team included Mary Thomas, Priscilla Antone, Connie Jackson, Amelia Enos, Inez Satala, and Sandra Whitman. Researchers from Mayo Clinic included Dr. Michele Halyard, a doctor who specializes in treating breast cancer patients, Ms. Cynthia Claus, head of Community outreach, and Dr. Teresa Pipe, a nurse researcher. The experience represented the forging of a partnership between the Community and the research team.

Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths for American Indian women. Detection, treatment and survival still remain a frightening journey. It was hoped that understanding the lived experience of women diagnosed with cancer may assist the Community and local health care system to develop strategies to facilitate care and support throughout the entire cancer journey of patients and families.

The findings of the study, including the words of the women, were shared with the GRHC Governing Board of Directors, the Health and Social Standing Committee, and the GRIC Tribal Council. Though we cannot give the names of the women that shared their personal experiences in order to protect their privacy, we want to thank them for their contributions to the study and for providing real-life descriptions that the impacts cancer inflicts on native women.

As one of our team members stated at the end of this process:

“Where once we engaged in research as passive participants, we now move towards the future with optimism. Confident that as our knowledge of research evolves, so will our ability to identify valuable research, and engage valuable research partners – but first, you must sit at our table, hear us, and listen with your heart.”

We respect and honor the brave women who participated in this study.

For your information, resources are available for breast health:

**For Breast Cancer Screening**, mammograms are scheduled at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital two times a month and at the Komatke Health Center every other month. Consult with a provider to schedule a mammogram.

**For assistance during Diagnosis and Treatment** contact a Cancer Care Coordinator. Lisa Stange is the primary contact. You can reach by phone at 602 528 1284. Her services are available to the entire Community. A doctor’s referral is not necessary. Call if you have concerns, need assistance or information about specific cancers.

**For Survivors and Community support** there are two Cancer Support Groups located within the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). In the eastern areas of GRIC, call Dennis Cooky-ouma 520-562-3533. In the western areas of GRIC, call Priscilla Antone 520-610-0312.
DR. MICHAEL J. SMITH AND HIS DENTAL TEAM
WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER ALL EMPLOYEES and TRIBAL MEMBERS OF THE Gila River INDIAN COMMUNITY WHO SUBSCRIBE TO DENTAL INSURANCE THROUGH AMERIBEN ...

We will take your insurance as payment in full!!
This is a huge savings to you!! If you need a cleaning, fillings, or even crowns we will bill your insurance and never take your money!!
MAXIMIZE YOUR BENEFITS FOR 2010!!
Call today to reserve your appointment

Hours Mondays - Thursday 8am-5pm and Friday by appointment
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3048 E. Baseline Rd ste 126
Mesa, AZ 85204
POWER RANCH DENTAL
7400 S. Power Rd. Ste #128
Gilbert, AZ. 85297
480-988-2282
www.powerranchdental.com

Don’t worry we will take good care of you!!

Thank you for choosing Dr. Keith Kennedy and his dental team to meet your dental needs... If you are a tribal member or an employee of the Gila river Indian Community and subscribe to dental insurance through Ameriben there is NO OUT OF POCKET COST within the maximum allowed for dental treatment!!

No Kidding! Call today to schedule an appointment!

LOOP-202 OUTREACH MEETING

DISTRICT 6
Boys & Girls Club-Komat Ke
Saturday, December 4, 2010 - 9am to 2pm

DISTRICT 1
Multi-Purpose Building
Saturday, December 11, 2010 - 9am to 2pm

Presentation from Transportation Technical Team on options and proposal for Loop-202

Meetings are open to the member’s of the Gila River Indian Community ONLY!

For more information contact Alia Maisonet: 520.562.9851 or email Alia.Maisonet@gric.nsn.us
The Maricopa Pride baseball lineup to shakes hands with their opponent following an exciting game. Good sportsmanship and respect for the new field were stressed by the coaches as the groundwork was laid for many teams in the future in D7.

Eagle Pride Soars High
Skyline Tech HS Takes State Championship
By Denna Fifer, Skyline Schools

Ultimate Frisbee is the name of the game, and the players, Skyline Tech HS and James Madison Preparatory School went head to head Wednesday, October 27th at Benedict Park fighting for the title of Arizona Charter Athletic Association’s State Championship. Ultimate Frisbee is a nationally recognized, co-ed, limited contact, fast paced and full of action sport similar to football but played with a disc, and one of the many sports charter schools, like Skyline Tech HS, participate in.

For the park and their belongings is a major priority for the team. The teams are looking forward to next year in order to keep baseball and tee-ball going in D7 for a long time. “We would just like to thank the Community and all the families for supporting us and helping us through the season,” said Laws.

Forbes Travel Guide bestows their highest ratings upon the Sheraton WHP Resort and Spa

Kai Restaurant Receives the Coveted Five-Star Rating and Aji Spa Receives Four Stars for 2011

PIONEX, AZ. (November 17, 2010) – Forbes Travel Guide, yesterday announced their list of 2011 award winners. Kai restaurant at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa was again honored with Forbes Travel Guide’s highest rating, the Five-Star Award. Kai now stands as one of only 23 Five-Star restaurants in all of North America and the sole restaurant in Arizona to receive this prestigious commendation.

In addition, A&A, last month announced their list of 2011 award winners and Kai maintained their position as the only Five-Diamond restaurant in Arizona. This announcement marked Kai’s fifth Five-Diamond designation. The dual recognition as Forbes Five-Star and AAA Five-Diamond solidifies Kai’s position as one of the most prestigious dining experiences in North America. Kai, the Pima word for seed, features distinctive “Native American with Global Accents” cuisine in which the resort’s Executive Chef, Michael O’Dowd elevates simple flavors of local and regional origin. Working diligently to present traditional recipes in a new setting is O’Dowd’s continually evolving way of writing the future for Native American inspired cuisine. In so doing, Kai has won the respect of traveling gourmets, local and national epicureans alike.

In addition, A&A was named to the list of Forbes Four-Star recipients, for the third year, making it one of only 108 in the U.S. and one of the top seven spas in Arizona. A&A, meaning “Sanctuary” in the Pima language, has designed a whole selection of treatments inspired by the Pima and Maricopa culture entitled the Indigenous Collection. This Collection was developed by A&A’s Cultural Caretakers of Pima and Maricopa descent and is the only authentic Native American spa menu in existence.

“This is truly an honor and a tribute to our entire staff,” said Bunty Ahamed, General Manager. “These awards recognize the passion, talent and commitment of the many lives that are connected to this success.”

D7 bring Maricopa Pride to the baseball diamond

DISTRICT SEVEN-ON a typical game night, the ball park in D7 welcomes families and Community members to cheer on the local baseball team aptly named the Maricopa Pride.

The coaches stress to the players the importance of respect for the game and respect for themselves. The New York Yankees are famous for their strict dress code and personal appearance policy and the Pride instill a similar guideline. The team must be dressed properly at all times with tucked in uniforms and ball caps worn correctly.

On the last regular season game of the season on Nov. 8, 2010 the coaching staff penciled in all 6 of their girls on the line up card to reward them for the steady improvement. The move almost resulted in a huge hurdle between the lines as the team made a rally in the bottom of the last inning. Down 15-2, the female sluggers manufactured six runs on timely hitting and solid base running. They pounded the other teams closer by shooting balls into the gap, driving in key runs. The magic ran out with a 15-8 loss, but up to that point it was big highlight for a team that was struggling to crack the win column.

Even though there had not been much to celebrate in terms of wins the team had improved immensely considering the level they started. “When you step back and look at the progress they’ve made as a team and individuals, then that is uplifting in itself,” said Coach Anthony Terrazas who shares equal duty coaching the youngsters with Waylon Pahona and Kevin Pahona.

Only a handful of the players brought experience while the rest were raw talents who never played organized baseball. “We taught them the basics,” said Coach Waylon Pahona.

Before the players hit the diamond, the coaching staff held a meeting with the player’s parents which played a big role in teaching the virtues of good sportsmanship.

One player said that his knowledge of the game was raised significantly through ardent practice and valuable experience between the lines. “We’re trying our best and having fun.”

After every game the players can be seen picking up after themselves and cleaning the park. The park itself is also a point of pride for the team and Community as Coach Terrazas said it has a big positive impact to have a nice place to play and also watch games. “You see a lot of families and a lot of elders coming out and supporting even if they don’t have family on the teams.” He said the park is a super-perfect upgrade from years past and visitors often compliment the facility for its pristine playing surfaces and nearby playground.

The park is in use through out the week when you combine games and practices. Another important and sometimes unnoticed aspect of keeping the season going is fundraising. Every game the team is selling in the snack facility to accommodate the needs of the team. The Pride invested dollars into the park and through their own efforts rewarded the team with a trip to the State Fair.

Along with the little league team is D7’s first tee-ball team who play on Saturday mornings with youth from ages 5-8. Coach by Savina Laws, Joel Laws and Jenny Mack, this season was also marked by the hard work and vast improvement in a relative short amount of time. After losing their first contest they ripped off four consecutive wins.

At the onset of the season the players did not know how to bat or run the bases but have since caught on to the game like a fish to water. This style of tee-ball is known as coach pitch where the coaches throw to players for up to five pitches then they get the tee. Mack said for the most part the tee is not necessary. The coaches also acknowledged the tremendous support from the families for donations and support. Both teams said that help from the Community was important to the season. “The Community saw the need and decided to help us,” said Savina Laws.

Laws also said that teaching the players to care for the park and their belongings is a major priority for the team. The teams are looking forward to next year in order to keep baseball and tee-ball going in D7 for a long time. “We would just like to thank the Community and all the families for supporting us and helping us through the season,” said Laws.

Coaches acknowledge the tremendous progress that the young players have made this season that is equally rewarding. “We taught them the basics,” said Coach Waylon Pahona.

Bowler, School Principal: Mr. Carl Hill

Forbes Travel Guide bestows their highest ratings upon the Sheraton WHP Resort and Spa

Kai Restaurant Receives the Coveted Five-Star Rating and Aji Spa Receives Four Stars for 2011

Forbes Travel Guide bestows their highest ratings upon the Sheraton WHP Resort and Spa

Kai, the Pima word for seed, features distinctive “Native American with Global Accents” cuisine in which the resort’s Executive Chef, Michael O’Dowd elevates simple flavors of local and regional origin. Working diligently to present traditional recipes in a new setting is O’Dowd’s continually evolving way of writing the future for Native American inspired cuisine. In so doing, Kai has won the respect of traveling gourmets, local and national epicureans alike. In addition, Aji Spa was named to the list of Forbes Four-Star recipients, for the third year, making it one of only 108 in the U.S. and one of the top seven spas in Arizona. A&A, meaning “Sanctuary” in the Pima language, has designed a whole selection of treatments inspired by the Pima and Maricopa culture entitled the Indigenous Collection. This Collection was developed by A&A’s Cultural Caretakers of Pima and Maricopa descent and is the only authentic Native American spa menu in existence. "This is truly an honor and a tribute to our entire staff," said Bunty Ahamed, General Manager. "These awards recognize the passion, talent and commitment of the many lives that are connected to this success."
Parent Teacher Conferences highlight major changes in AZ graduation requirements

By Lillian Kim Franklin

During recent parent teacher conferences at Vechij Hindag Alternative School, Inc., staff focused on helping families and students prepare for the major changes in the minimum requirements for graduation from high school in Arizona. Lead Teacher Sam Jackson worked closely with Cochlear 2012 mentor Christine Goffinet and Cochlear 2013 mentor Michael Tucker to provide information to mail out to students and families in the 2012 and 2013 Cohorts.

Mr. Jackson explained to families that the cohort for a student is determined by the first enrollment in any Arizona high school. "We used to think of the students as freshmen and sophomores or juniors and seniors but that is about how many credits they have. Now we have to think about Cohorts. The state of Arizona places a student in a cohort when they first enroll in ninth grade," Mr. Jackson explained. "The Cohort is four years from when they start. That is the year the state expects them to graduate. Cohort never change no matter how many credits a student has. That cohort tells the graduation and testing requirements to the school, the families and the students." "The new changes will be very challenging to the students," stated Michael Tucker, Vechij Hindag Alternative School's newest mathematics teacher. "Families need to start preparing in middle school because these new math requirements are really tough." Doran went on to say that the State has adopted new tougher core standards in Math and that students in Cohort 2013 will need four years of math starting with Algebra I. "Yes," he said, "Unfortunately, pre-algebra and review classes taken in high school will now only count as elective credit. All students will have to pass these new stricter math classes to graduate. That is why we are offering tutoring".

Career and technical teacher and cohort mentor 2012, Christine Goffinet said, "It is very important for parents to know and for students to know what they want to graduate. I have been working with my cohort to make sure they are focused on AIMs testing too." To learn more about any high school student's cohort, graduation and testing requirements contact your child's high school or call Vechij Hindag Alternative Services, and staff will be happy to help direct you to resources that can help.

This chart is adopted from one on the Arizona Department of Education web page: www.adsa.arizona.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Requirements</th>
<th>Class of 2011</th>
<th>Class of 2012</th>
<th>Class of 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students who started high school for the first time in 2009</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who started high school for the first time in 2010</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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This is also the requirement for students who start this year

Coolidge Schools Media Project

West School News

By Haylee Bechtle
5th grade

West School is ROARING TO SUCCESS!! Once this year we have our after school program for students called Tiger Tech. We meet Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and on Fridays from 2:30-4:30. In the after school program we are doing literature studies, book clubs, and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills. The program will be offering a dance class with the assistance of Adam Cordova and the dance crew. They continue to work and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills. In the after school program we are doing literature studies, book clubs, and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills. In the after school program we are doing literature studies, book clubs, and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills. The program will be offering a dance class with the assistance of Adam Cordova and the dance crew. They continue to work on preparing us for the Galileo and AIMS tests. In school we have another literacy program we are doing literature studies, book clubs, and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills. After school on Fridays from 2:30-4:30. In the after school program we are doing literature studies, book clubs, and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills.

The following are some events to keep in mind:

October 2nd was our First Quarter Honor Roll Award. We presented students with Perfect Attendance Certificates, Honor Roll Certificates, and Principal List Certificates. Congratulations to all who got honor roll and keep up the good work.

November 11th No School

November 3rd and November 17th are half days for early release.

November 24th thru 26th is Thanksgiving Break

West School is currently under construction; a new school building is being built. It seems like it's going slow, but it's supposed to be completed by Spring 2011.

Coolidge High School also offers a lot of great programs. One of the big programs that this school has is the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). JROTC is really fun. There are two great instructors: Lt. Col. Mark Blaydes and First Sgt. David Ramirez.

Coolidge High School has many events going on all the time. Fall sports (football, volleyball, swimming, and cross country) are finishing up and Winter sports (basketball, wrestling, and soccer) are starting. CHS has lots of clubs already going year-round. Coolidge High School is doing good and is looking forward to another great year. GO BEARS!!

San Tan Heights

By: Amber Pablo, Darius Jackson

Rights and Privileges

American Youth vs Mexico

By: Amber Pablo, Darius Jackson

In our research this week we discovered that there are differences between rights and privileges of youth of America and those of other countries. American youth have an abundance of privileges and rights that they take for granted. Taking a look at other countries, the rights that we enjoy are similar. For instance, driving, drinking, working, school, etc. are all things that we take for granted.

Parent Teacher Conferences highlight major changes in AZ graduation requirements

By Lillian Kim Franklin

During recent parent teacher conferences at Vechij Hindag Alternative School, Inc., staff focused on helping families and students prepare for the major changes in the minimum requirements for graduation from high school in Arizona. Lead Teacher Sam Jackson worked closely with Cochlear 2012 mentor Christine Goffinet and Cochlear 2013 mentor Michael Tucker to provide information to mail out to students and families in the 2012 and 2013 Cohorts.

Mr. Jackson explained to families that the cohort for a student is determined by the first enrollment in any Arizona high school. "We used to think of the students as freshmen and sophomores or juniors and seniors but that is about how many credits they have. Now we have to think about Cohorts. The state of Arizona places a student in a cohort when they first enroll in ninth grade," Mr. Jackson explained. "The Cohort is four years from when they start. That is the year the state expects them to graduate. Cohort never change no matter how many credits a student has. That cohort tells the graduation and testing requirements to the school, the families and the students." "The new changes will be very challenging to the students," stated Michael Tucker, Vechij Hindag Alternative School's newest mathematics teacher. "Families need to start preparing in middle school because these new math requirements are really tough." Doran went on to say that the State has adopted new tougher core standards in Math and that students in Cohort 2013 will need four years of math starting with Algebra I. "Yes," he said, "Unfortunately, pre-algebra and review classes taken in high school will now only count as elective credit. All students will have to pass these new stricter math classes to graduate. That is why we are offering tutoring".

Career and technical teacher and cohort mentor 2012, Christine Goffinet said, "It is very important for parents to know and for students to know what they want to graduate. I have been working with my cohort to make sure they are focused on AIMs testing too." To learn more about any high school student's cohort, graduation and testing requirements contact your child's high school or call Vechij Hindag Alternative Services, and staff will be happy to help direct you to resources that can help.

This chart is adopted from one on the Arizona Department of Education web page: www.adsa.arizona.gov

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Current Requirements</th>
<th>Class of 2011</th>
<th>Class of 2012</th>
<th>Class of 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students who started high school for the first time in 2009</td>
<td>520</td>
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<td>Students who started high school for the first time in 2010</td>
<td>550</td>
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This is also the requirement for students who start this year

Coolidge Schools Media Project

West School News

By Haylee Bechtle
5th grade

West School is ROARING TO SUCCESS!! Once this year we have our after school program for students called Tiger Tech. We meet Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and on Fridays from 2:30-4:30. In the after school program we are doing literature studies, book clubs, and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills. The program will be offering a dance class with the assistance of Adam Cordova and the dance crew. They continue to work and using interactive web sites to learn new math skills. All referrals are considered confidential, and services are provided at no cost. The parent, legal guardian, or surrogate parent retains the right to refuse services and is provided other procedural safeguards under federal and state law.

Public school services include screening in areas of suspected disabilities, such as vision, hearing, motor skills, speech, language, cognitive, academic and/or social emotional development. Evaluations in the schools are provided in areas of suspected disabilities, including learning disabilities, speech and language development, physical impairments, vision or hearing problems, mental retardation, emotional disturbances, autism/pervasive developmental disorders, health impairments, developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries.

A free appropriate public education with a full continuum of services is available for eligible students with disabilities. For more information concerning eligibility criteria and referral procedures, contact the principal or counselor of your local school or call Lillian Kim Franklin at 520.562.3286

Coolidge High School

Written by Duane Jackson, Jr.; 11th Grade

At Coolidge High School there are a lot of great things going on. One of the big things is that Coolidge High School is currently under construction; a new school building is being built. It seems like it’s going slow, but it’s supposed to be completed by Spring 2011.

Coolidge High School also offers a lot of great programs. One of the big programs that this school has is the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). JROTC is really fun. There are two great instructors: Lt. Col. Mark Blaydes and First Sgt. David Ramirez.

Coolidge High School has many events going on all the time. Fall sports (football, volleyball, swimming, and cross country) are finishing up and Winter sports (basketball, wrestling, and soccer) are starting. CHS has lots of clubs already going year-round. Coolidge High School is doing good and is looking forward to another great year. GO BEARS!!

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In our research this week we discovered that there are differences between rights and privileges of youth of America and those of other countries. American youth have an abundance of privileges and rights that they take for granted. Taking a look at other countries, the rights that we enjoy are similar. For instance, driving, drinking, working, school, etc. are all things that we take for granted.
University of Michigan adopts consultation first approach on the transfer of Native American human remains

ANN ARBOR, Mich.--The University of Michigan will not pursue a plan of transferring Native American Indian tribes as the university further develops its policies and procedures for the transfer of Native American human remains.

The Department of the Interior Research Stephen Forrest established the approach as part of his announcement that he has accepted the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Culturally Undevelopable Human Remains.

The 12-member committee submitted nine recommen- dations in September. Flanked by university officials and representatives from two Native American tribes, Forrest announced that he would like to consider making changes that might handle requests for the transfer of human remains and associated funerary objects now being held by the U-M Museum of Anthropology. The report was submitted Sept. 30.

Forrest accepted those recommendations, with some modifications, after weighing feedback he received during a month-long period of public comment during October.

Forrest established the committee in October 2009 to advise him on the development of university policies re- lated to the transfer of human remains and funerary objects held by the university for which the cultural affiliation with any specific Native American tribe has not been established.

When the committee was formed, the federal government was in the process of issuing new rules—under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990—regarding the transfer of human remains to tribes and funerary objects. Forrest said he expects consultation will be a key feature of the counseling groups he will convene and will consider similar transfer of associated funerary objects.

Among the key modifications Forrest made before adopting the committee’s recommendations were imposing a moratorium on any new research with NAGPRA-eligible remains and materials and adding at least one advisory committee member not a part of the university community to represent a tribal perspective.

Forrest has added the director of the Museum of Anthropology as a committee member, has committed to adding at least one advisory committee member from outside the university community who will bring a tribal perspective.

Forrest said it is his office’s belief that it is “essential to include a tribal perspective in discussions” that relate to the development of policies and procedures that affect Native American tribes.

“We simply must get all parties talking to each other again and we believe consultation, on all aspects of this sensi- tive issue, is critical to developing a shared understanding among all the stakeholders,” Forrest said.

The key recommendations, now accepted by OVPR, include these:

• That the university establish a clearly understood, formal process for handling requests for information about or removal of human remains and associated funerary objects. All requests will now start with the NAG- PRA project manager in OVPR.

• That the university include any funerary objects as- sociated with Native American human remains if the remains themselves are transferred.

• That the advisory committee become a standing OVPR committee to advise Forrest on transfer requests. Forrest has added the director of the Museum of Anthro- pology as a committee member, has committed to adding at least one advisory committee member not a part of the university community to represent a tribal perspective, and is considering various options for further expansion.

• While the committee recommended finding appro- priate space in which to store the remains, tribal leaders have, instead, asked that the remains stay where they are. Forrest said the university will respect that request.

• Forrest said he expects consultation with tribal leaders to be a basic element of how the university works with Native Americans on all issues related to the human remains and associated funerary objects.

As such, letters to tribal leaders outlining the new process for requesting the transfers will be sent before the end of the month.

A more detailed account of the advisory committee rec- ommendations and the new OVPR policies and procedures can be found here: http://research.umich.edu/policies/ovpr.

Media project from page 16

all of these are basically the same and the legal age is be- tween 16 and 18. However, in France, the youth cannot drive until they are 18.

When we look into education there are some similarities but the American youth really have the advantage over other countries when it comes to choice. By advantage we mean that we attend school five days a week for approximately seven hours a day. We have the week end off and most of the time we have half days Wednesdays. We are given holi- days, vacations, summer vacations, days off for Martin Luther King Jr., Flag Day, etc. We are required to learn English, math, science, and social studies but we are allowed to choose our electives. There are a wide variety of electives students can take. They have a rigid schedule that includes English, music and dance. Sounds good, doesn’t it? And it is! Let’s look at China for a minute. In China the youth attend school seven days a week for approximately nine to ten hours a day. They have a rigid schedule that includes language, math, and technology. There are no electives. There are no extended holidays. The Chinese youth do have certain sports that they are involved in but their first priority is their edu- cation. See the differences?

So, is learning in America really all that difficult? We think that the American youth have it pretty nice when you consider the school day and the privilege to choose to play sports of any kind. We are not restricted and have the choice to decide for ourselves what classes we want to take when it comes to our electives. We must ask ourselves then, do we take our learning and education as seriously as the youth in other countries? Do we need to take another look at how we view learning? Let’s make it a priority on our list and ap- preciate our right to a free education. Learning is the key to our future. Let’s not lock ourselves out of our own future by not taking education seriously. Thanks for listening.

Rights and Privileges of American Youth

By: Caitlyn Hackett, Gaonna Stone, Kyle Pyun, Ally Heet, and Randy Miller

At Hohokam Middle School we are studying the rights and privileges of American Youth and the youth from other countries. This month we will be talking a bit about the youth of China, how they learn, customs, and education in general.

During our research we discovered that the American youth don’t have it as difficult as they might think. In China the youth are required to learn English beginning in the 3rd grade and continue all the way through their school years.

They are allowed to choose their electives that they are born and enter their first year with the understanding that education is top priority! The Chinese youth attend school seven days a week and have long, arduous nine to ten hour days filled with learning. They are required to wear uniforms and have a great deal of respect for their teachers and parents, as well as any adult figure. The youth of China do not take any- thing for granted and must be diligent in their studies in order to earn privileges. There are many fine arts, drama, dance, theater and athletics as well, but it is understood that education comes first. The Chinese have many fine athletes in soccer, basketball and many more sports. Their priority, however, is to study math, science, technology, and English. Everyone in China can read and write.

Taking a look at the American youth we discovered that, in comparison, we are not required to learn another lan- guage in school and we are given an equal opportunity to attend school five days a week for approximately seven hours a day. We are allowed to choose our electives and create our own schedule.

Both the Navajo Nation and Cherokee Nation intend to conduct Class III gaming on the newly-acquired lands, pursuant to IGRA. IGRA requires the Tribes to enter into tribal-state gaming compacts authorizing Class III gaming on these respective sites, prior to conducting Class III gaming ac- tivities.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act prohibits Indian tribes from gaming on lands acquired in trust after its enactment in 1988. IGRA also lists gaming activities explicitly denied exceptions applies. The first known, as the “reservation exception,” al- lows tribes to conduct gaming on new lands if they are contiguous to an Indian reservation that existed in 1988, or if they are within the Tribe’s former reservation in Okla- homa. The two applications approved yesterday meet these crite- ria.

“We worked very closely with our attorneys in the Of- fice of the Solicitor on the Navajo and Cherokee applica- tions and determined that they clearly satisfy the law,” Echo Hawk said. “We will continue our work to process other pending applications.”

The second exception, known as the “equal footing ex- ception,” was not available to the two tribes because they do not own land as the tribal leaders agreed to take another look at pursuing Indian gaming on their new lands as those tribes that had lands eligible for gaming in 1988.

Officials from the Department of Indian Gam- ing are working to complete a consultation process with tribal leaders on developing the Department’s policy for im- plementing the third category of exceptions under IGRA: the so-called “off-reservation” exception. A June 18, 2010 memo from the Solicitor’s Office of the Interior Ken Salazar said Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk directed the Department to engage Indian tribes to develop principled and transparent criteria to implement this policy. The tribal consultation process will continue through December 18, 2010.

For more information see:
http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/AS- IA/OIG/index.htm

The Department also determined the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma does not qualify for gaming under one of the equal footing exceptions to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) for property located in Oklahoma City, Okla. The Tribe had cited the same exception in its application for gaming facilities on the property. IGRA requires the Tribes to enter into tribal-state gaming compacts authorizing Class III gaming on these respective sites, prior to conducting Class III gaming ac-
Defendant sentenced for selling meth on Ak-Chin Indian Reservation

PHOENIX — Armando Arrellanes, 38, of Maricopa, Ariz., was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison on Nov. 8, 2010, by the Honorable Susan R. Bolton after pleading guilty to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

During this operation, Arrellanes and Ruperto Lopez-Rodriguez, 65, sold a total of 13 grams of “actual” methamphetamine to an undercover police officer on five separate occasions.

“Actual” methamphetamine refers to the weight of the illegal controlled substance itself, or the controlled substance itself, or the mixture or substance sold.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Phoenix. The prosecution was handled by Kristen Brok Kiley, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

GRIC man sentenced to 25 years for brutalizing pregnant girlfriend

PHOENIX — Philip Gomez, 29, of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced to 25 years in a federal prison. U.S. Judge Susan R. Bolton sentenced the defendant after a jury found him guilty in May for Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Kidnapping.

“The sentence of 25 years is just a sentence given the brutalization the defendant inflicted on the woman who was bearing his child,” said U.S. Attorney Dennis K. Burke. “This brutalization of the victim for almost four years and later tried to convince her to not come forward. I want to commend my prosecutors who worked tirelessly to obtain justice in this case.”

The evidence at trial showed that Gomez beat, kicked and punched his girlfriend for a period of three to four hours, repeatedly dragged her around the home by her hair and beat her with a stereo speaker that he ripped from the other stereo components. Additionally, the Defendant attempted to conceal the blood that was shed from her wounds by forcing her to shower. Pictures at the scene revealed the blood and clumps of hair throughout the home.

Gomez fended the home when the victim’s mother came home during the assault and called the police. During the 911 call, the defendant could be heard in the background yelling the words “she made me!” When police arrived on the scene, the victim’s face was beaten so severely that both eyes were swollen shut and she had to be flown, via helicopter, to the hospital. She suffered massive bruising with over 40 bruises to her body and three severe lacerations to her face, resulting in permanent scarring.

Testimony showed that during the assault, the defendant’s brother walked in on the assault but did nothing to stop it. Testimony showed that Gomez called the victim repeatedly while she was in the hospital in an attempt to pressure her not to come to court. While the victim expressed some reluctance to appear in court, she ultimately elected to take the stand and provided powerful testimony.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department and the FBI. The prosecution was handled by Sharon Sexton and Leta Holton, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.
Congratulations to Apodaca Newleyweds

Gregory Bernard Barnargas was born on June 12, 1954 and passed October 16, 2010. Greg is a beloved son, brother, uncle and member of the Webb family. The family of Gregory (Greg) would like to thank the GRIC Law Enforcement, GRIC fire department, Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84, and District 6 Service GRIC fire department, Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84, and District 6 Service.

Greg was dearly loved by his family and will truly be missed by all.

Thank you on behalf of Gregory Barnargas family

A Veteran’s Day assembly at Sacaton Elementary School was held on November 10 to honor veterans from the U.S. Armed Forces who honorably served our country in all wars and conflicts. The ceremony included the Posting of the Colors by Community veterans David Anderson (L-Army) and Joey Whitman (R-Army). Other Gila River veterans participating were Urban Giff (Marine Corps), Rebecca Rowe (Navy), and Kendall Pasquale (Marine Corps & Army).
For millennia before Europeans settled in North America, the indigenous peoples of this continent flourished with vibrant cultures and were the original stewards of the land. From generation to generation, they handed down invaluable cultural knowledge and rich traditions, which continue to thrive in Native American communities across our country today. During National Native American Heritage Month, we honor and celebrate their importance to our great Nation and our world.

America’s journey has been marked both by bright times of progress and dark moments of injustice for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Since the birth of America, they have contributed immeasurably to our country and our heritage, distinguishing themselves as scholars, artists, entrepreneurs, and leaders in all aspects of our society. Native Americans have also served in the United States Armed Forces with honor and distinction, defending the security of our Nation with their lives. Yet, our communities face stark realities, including disproportionately high rates of poverty, unemployment, crime, and disease. These disparities are unacceptable, and we must acknowledge both our history and our current challenges if we are to ensure that all of our children have an equal opportunity to pursue the American dream.

From uplifting the tribal sovereignty recognized and reaffirmed in our Constitution and laws to strengthening our unique nation-to-nation relationship, my Administration stands firm in fulfilling our Nation’s commitments.

Over the past 2 years, we have made important steps towards working as partners with Native Americans to build sustainable and healthy native communities. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act continues to impact the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including through important projects to re-build, renovate schools so our children can get the education and skills they will need to compete in the global economy. At last year’s White House Tribal Nations Conference, I also announced a new consultation process to improve communication and coordination between the Federal Government and tribal governments.

This year, I was proud to sign the landmark Affordable Care Act, which permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, a cornerstone of health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. This vital legislation will help modernize the Indian health care system and improve health care for 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. To combat the high rates of crime and sexual violence in Native communities, I signed the Tribal Law and Order Act in July to bolster tribal law enforcement and enhance their abilities to prosecute and fight crime more effectively. And, recently, my Administration reached a settlement in a lawsuit brought by Native American farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture that underscores our commitment to treat all our citizens fairly.

As we celebrate the contributions and heritage of Native Americans during this month, we also recommit to supporting tribal self-determination, security, and prosperity for all Native Americans. While we cannot erase the scourges or broken promises of our past, we will move ahead together, writing a new, brighter chapter in our joint history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2010 as National Native American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 26, 2010, as Native American Heritage Day.

WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA
IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA
Green Tree Servicing LLC, f/k/a Conesco Finance Servicing, Plaintiff,
vs.
Randall G. DeLowe and Gloria M. Hernandez, Defendants
Case No. CV-2010-0266
NOTICE OF SUIT
TO: RANDALL G. DELowe AND GLORIA M. HERNANDEZ
1. A Petition for Order Allowing Repossession of the 1998 Redman Mobile Home, Serial No. 13520220, has been filed in this Court on September 23, 2010.
2. You or your attorney are hereby directed to immediately file a pleading in response to the Petition For Order Allowing Repossession on file hereinafter in the office of the Clerk of the above Court.
3. If you want to deny the claim you must file a written answer.
4. You may go to a legal counsel or advocate who can prepare an answer for you.
5. A hearing is scheduled for November 29, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., at the Gila River Indian Community Court. You are required to appear at the hearing.
6. If you do nothing and do not appear at the hearing, the Court may give judgment for the Plaintiff.
To be Published in the GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS
November 12, 2010.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Arsenic Levels Above Drinking Water Standards (Sweetwater and Stonotic Water Systems)
The Stotonic water system was recently found to be in violation of the Community’s drinking water standard. A level of arsenic higher than the limit was detected and, although this is not an emergency, customers utilizing this water should be aware of the right to know. The Gila River Department of Public Works is dedicated to providing you with information about what this means, what you should do as a consumer and what we are doing to correct the situation.

What should I do?
This does not mean you are required to use an alternative water supply such as bottled water. Because of the very low levels of arsenic this is not an immediate risk. You would have been notified immediately if your health was at risk. If you do have specific health concerns, consult your doctor and follow his advice.

Where does arsenic come from?
Arsenic in drinking water can come from the erosion of natural deposits, or the runoff from orchards, or glass and electronic parts production wastes, wood preservatives, and from manufacturing of paint, drugs, dyes, soaps, and metals.

What does this mean?
In 2005, the federal maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic in drinking water was 50 parts per billion, or 0.05 mg/l. The Gila River Department of Public Works conducts routine monitoring for the presence of many drinking water contaminants, and on September 16, 2010, test results revealed that the standards exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL), for arsenic. The standard is 0.010 mg/l and arsenic was found at 0.011 mg/l in the well that feeds the Stotonic water system.

What is being done?
To solve this problem and provide drinking water at levels below the MCL for arsenic the Gila River Department of Public Works is planning to install new water mains. These will provide Sweetwater and the Stonotic area with water which meets the standards for arsenic by bringing acceptable water into the area. We expect to have these new water mains operational by July of 2011, pending funding.
The following is a transcription of a talk given by Tohono O`odham elder Nick Jose as he addressed a group of young people during a summer program at Ira Hayes Library. Jose briefly interprets the songs he had chosen to sing and how they describe the lands of the O`odham people.

We sing about a lot of things. We sing about the earth, the saguaro cactus, the land and the mountains on the reservation. We have a song we call Sacaton, Sacaton Thang. We also have a song for Salt River and the mountains that is up there. We cover all these mountains and these lands in our songs. We’re all apart of you guys too. The Tohono O`odham people used to live here a long time ago. I do have land here. I don’t know where it is but I know where it was so I could come down here and teach you kids some of my songs. But I do have allotted land here on the reservation, somewhere on the east side.

These songs, if you speak a little Pima or understand O`odham, you can tell we are singing, what our songs are about. Like the first song is about the world and the creation of the world and the land on which we live. The second song is a cactus song. We know that the cactus fruit is ripening now. Most of these songs are for the rain. And our songs, it really is too for blessings for all of us. It’s for our land and for our people. That is what we sang.

The other song we sang is about the Baboquivari mountains which is so sacred to the Tohono O`odham people. I know that all of you know that this mountain is a very sacred for all of us on that side. I think some of these people on this side still also feel the same way. And that’s what’s that song is about, the Baboquivari mountains.

And the other song is again about the cactus standing by itself by the mountains with all the cactus fruit. Standing alone, that is what that song is about. The other one is at the end of our singing. That’s the last song we sing. It’s the ending song we sing. Again, if you understand a little O`odham or Pima, your language, you can understand what they were talking about in the last song. That’s the ending song. There are many more but we just only sang a few.

I thank you. I really enjoy when we have young kids because that is how I learned to sing these songs. When I was about your age, I traveled around with my relatives singing these songs, the healing songs. I know some of the healing songs. That is how I learned. I hope that some or all of you here will take up your culture and traditions. I know there are people here that will teach you your songs.

I’m really happy to see young people because I want them to know and I want them to understand to take this road to pick up these songs and carry on our culture and tradition. It is very important to all of you.

When you go out, don’t lose your identity. Always remember your identity and always remember who you are.” - Nick Jose

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“...
If You Are a Native American Who Tried to Get a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing from the USDA, You Could Receive Benefits from a $760 Million Class Action Settlement.

A class action Settlement with the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") has been reached. The lawsuit claimed the USDA discriminated against Native Americans who applied for or tried to apply for farm loans or loan servicing. The USDA denies it did anything wrong.

Am I included?
The Class includes all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

- Farmed or ranched or attempted to farm or ranch between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999;
- Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA during that period; and
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA either on their own or through a representative during the time period.

You are not eligible for this Settlement if you filed a claim, or intend to file a claim, in another USDA discrimination case like Pigford I or Pigford II (Black farmers), Garcia (Hispanic farmers) or Love (Women farmers).

Because of a law passed by Congress, you are also not eligible for this Settlement if you either:
- Experienced discrimination only between January 1 and November 23, 1997; or
- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and November 23, 1997.

What does the Settlement provide?
The $760 million Settlement will pay cash to Class Members for valid claims as well as attorneys' fees (between 4% and 8%, subject to Court approval) and awards. The Settlement includes up to $80 million in USDA loan forgiveness for Class Members who qualify. The USDA will pay an additional $20 million to implement the Settlement and will make some changes to their farm loan programs. Any money left after all payments and expenses have been made will be donated to one or more organizations that help Native American farmers and ranchers.

What can I get from the Settlement?
The amount of money you will receive will depend on whether you file a claim under Track A or Track B. It will also depend on the total number of claims that are filed and approved.

Track A – You can get a payment up to $50,000 for your discrimination claim plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

Track B – You can get the amount of your actual damages up to $250,000. Track B requires more proof than Track A.

USDA Loan Forgiveness – Under both Track A and Track B you can get forgiveness on part or all of your eligible USDA farm loans plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

How do I get benefits?
You will need to file a claim by December 24, 2011 to get benefits. After the Court approves the Settlement, meetings will be held across the country to help Class Members file claims. You can register for a Claims Package at the website or by calling the toll-free number.

What are my other rights?
- If you want to keep your right to sue the USDA about the claims in this Settlement, you must exclude yourself by February 28, 2011. Unless you exclude yourself, you will be bound by the terms of this Settlement.
- If you stay in the Settlement, you can object to or comment on it by February 28, 2011.

The Court will hold a hearing on April 28, 2011 to consider whether to approve the Settlement and the attorneys' fees. The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Class. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.

Gila River Fire Department
Toy Drive

“A TIME TO SHARE...
A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY”

Kick off date: Monday, November 1, 2010
to Friday, December 17, 2010

Please donate any new, unwrapped toy or gift card. All donations generated will
go directly to disadvantaged youth of the Gila River Indian Community.

For more information contact:
Jean Reed | 520.796.5900
Amber Childs | 520.562.2025

Toys will be accepted at the following locations:
* All Gila River Indian Community Fire Department Locations
* Employment & Training Department
* Sacaton Wellness Center
* Governance Center