



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GRIC distributes groceries to Districts in Community-wide food distribution



Boxes prepared for distribution to Community members. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Milk and eggs were given to GRIC members in District 3 on Friday, March 27. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

As a result of the surge to grocery stores to stock-up on food and supplies during COVID-19 pandemic, the Gila River Indian Community established food distribution pick-ups across the reservation through coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, Community Services Department, Gila River Hotels & Casinos and other entities. Staff from the PRIDE Group boxed the items at OEM, which were distributed in each of the Community's seven districts from March 27-29 and two locations for urban members in Casa Grande and Phoenix.

"In the midst of this crisis, our Casino, Community employees and volunteers came together at a moments notice to provide food for our people," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. He thanked the departments, districts and volunteers for making the emergency food distribution a success.

Community members picked up milk and eggs on the first day of the distributions. District employees, leaders and volunteers, wore protective equipment during the distribution.

Cars lined up to each of the service centers as Community members waited to pick-up food boxes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In the boxes were multiple dry good items like bread, ce-

real, oatmeal, potatoes and fruit. "We feel this is the best and safest way to do that, with the drive through pick-up. It's working really well," said Lt. Gov. Robert Stone. He said the planning of the food distributions between OEM, the districts and volunteers has been helpful in organizing the pick-ups.

Those who waited at their district were thankful for the assistance. "It's hard to get flour and beans, the main essentials that [we] need," said Sabrina Antone, District 5 resident. "Thanks to the district, they're helping [us] out, but with that, we have to do our portions (regarding food)."

"When you look at the stores, they've been cleared out, it's very frustrating for those left with little options for food," said District 4 Council Representative Pamela Johnson. She and other District 4 council representatives, assisted district workers, during the food distribution.

She thinks about the members in her district and across the Community, especially the elders, who are not able to leave their home to get food. "Our drivers are taking the food to [the elders], and we hope to get to all of the households," said Johnson.

"It is very important the we provide [these] necessities to our Community members," said District 1 Council Representative Arzie Hogg. "It's unfortunate some of them aren't able to make it to

the store. There's chaos with people trying to get the basic essentials."

"I think it's pretty good the Community is doing [this], it's the first time we are going through something like this, but [we] are okay, we're going to make it," said District 3 member Richard Pedro.

Others do their best to adjust to the recent rise in COVID-19 restrictions while trying to put food

"In the midst of this crisis, our Casino, Community employees and volunteers came together at a moment's notice to provide food for our people."
-Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

fany Ahmsaty, District 3 member. She added, safeguarding against COVID-19 is important, because her mother is on dialysis, which requires them to be extra careful in sanitizing everything around the house

"It's really good, I'm glad they're doing something to help its Community members out, because it's hard to get the things you need in stores," said Ahmsaty.

"It's vital, in the grocery stores there's very little, it scarce in there," said Erma Antone District 3 Coordinator. "We've dealt with disasters like fires, floods, [this] is definitely a learning experience for [us] and the Community."

on the table.

"We usually go out in the Community doing stuff, so now we have to stay inside," said Tif-



Volunteers in District 5 deliver boxes to families in line. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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Gardening and getting outdoors during the pandemic



Sunflowers are great to bring in pollinators like bees and butterflies. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Though it's not spring break, the world and Community is mostly confined to our homes and taking advantage of outdoor needs seems like an applicable activity. Around the Community, many are outside clearing weeds from 2019, pruning trees, or preparing or planning new home gardens. The low desert environment we live in means warmer temperatures are here, and now is the best time to try out your green thumb.

Like tending to cattle, gar-

dening and agriculture is a science. Understanding temperature, irrigation, and soil composition factor heavily into gardening as well, but shouldn't be daunting enough to shy anyone away. The Community has resources to assist green thumbs and beginners alike.

Understanding the climate will help you decide what to plant as there are excellent beginner plants to consider such as herbs and flowers.

Sunflowers and their varieties are relatively simple and easy to manage as long as they are well watered and have sufficient



Time in a garden is a productive activity for families. Kyle Knox/GRIN

sunlight. Herbs vary but require water and good soil to begin cultivation. Keep in mind that many herbs can start inside then can be moved outdoors, or they can remain indoors as long as they are near a window for heat and sunshine.

The soil for herbs and plants, if placed in planting pots or containers, should be labeled as "potting soil," stay away from outside dirt or regular "gardening soil." Potting soil has elements that will assist with draining water away from the plant and roots. This soil ensures water doesn't settle, and you inadvertently "overwater" your plants.

Fruits and vegetables require soil, ample space, and access to water. Many times, gardeners will plant outside their homes with access to a garden hose. And because of the Community's plentiful water, having enough shouldn't be an issue. One component to consider is soil, which will also play into the space consideration. Unfortunately, our local land isn't the best for plants and requires treatment before successful planting. With that, this leads many to purchase soil from stores or nurseries. Outside compost and dirt are best to start with since enriched from waste

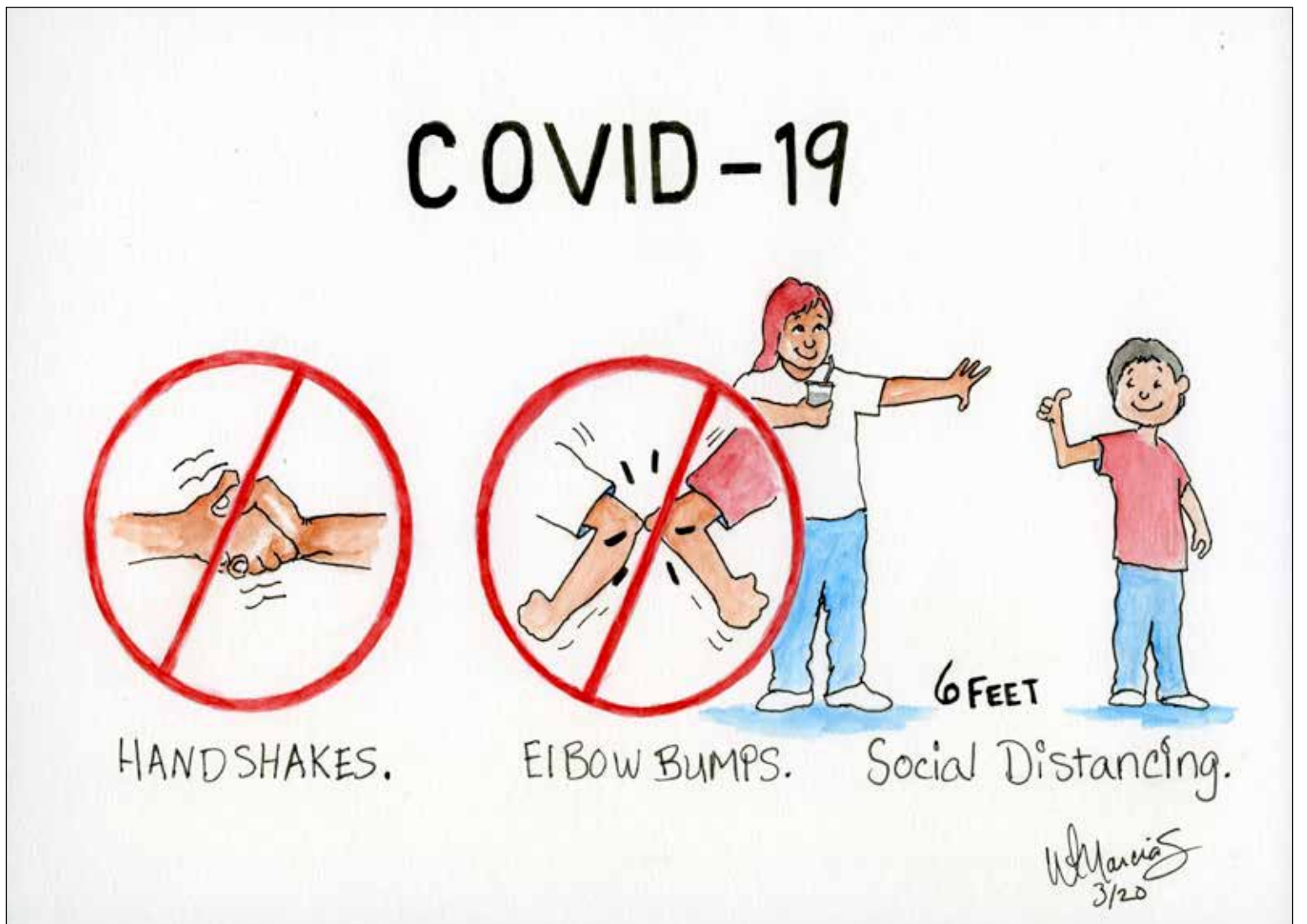
from bioproducts like trees, grass cuttings, etc. Those bioproducts will help to nurture and support plants and living things within them.

Because the soil must be purchased or hauled, that may affect how big or small your garden area is. There is no right or wrong way and it is up to your discretion based on what you can manage.

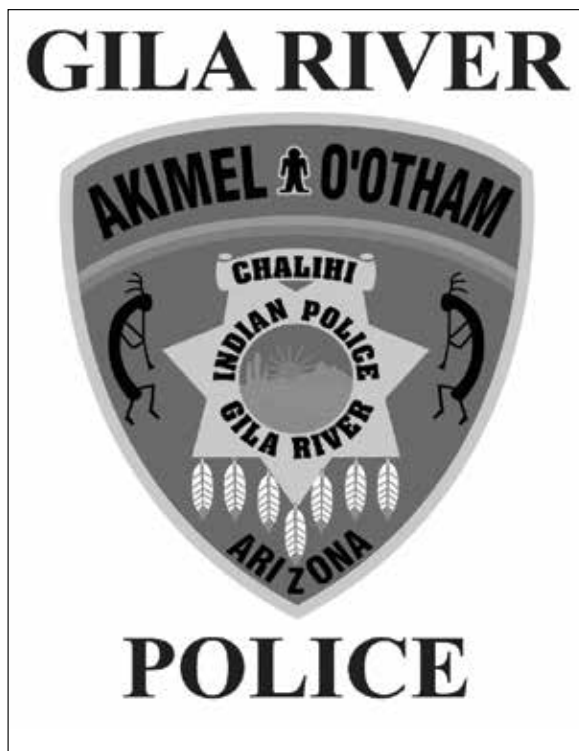
Some fruits and vegetables to consider between now and the end of April are radishes, potatoes, summer squash, watermelon, melon, corn, beans and peppers.

With the extra time, gardening can prove to be a productive activity for families. The time outside is healthy and can provide additional physical activity. In this time of uncertainty, cultivating a garden is one thing that we can manage and it can be very rewarding.

Lastly, whether you are a seasoned or novice gardener you can find local support by reaching out to David Van Druff at the Gila River Health Care's Life Center. His program can provide some starter plants, planting tubs, and advice to support your efforts. He can be reached by email at dvan-druff@grhc.org or by calling his office at (520) 562-3321.



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs



Gila River Police Department
Incident Log
March 22 - 28, 2020

Certain reports may not be available or are currently under investigation which GRPD holds

the right to restrict public release.

Calls for services this week: 752 Arrest made: 33

District One- (Blackwater)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Two – (Sacaton Flats)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Three- (Sacaton)

THEFT (SHOPLIFTING) – 200324-01484 Officers were dispatched to the Sacaton Super Mart in reference to a shoplifting that occurred. Investigation revealed three subjects entered the store and filled a cart with various items. One of the suspects attempted

to pay with a credit card but was declined; the other two suspects had already walked out of the store with the items. The suspect attempting to pay stated cash was in the car and would be in to pay the amount. All three subjects proceeded into the vehicle and left in an unknown direction. The staff did not recognize the suspects; a copy of the video surveillance will be reviewed to assist in identifying the three suspects. Nothing further.

Status: Closed Pending Suspect Identification

THEFT (SHOPLIFTING) – 200322-01446 Officers were dispatched in reference to a theft of a tailgate. Contact was made with the reporting party/victim and stated that their tailgate was

taken sometime during the night. A victim's right form was filled out and officers cleared the scene. Dispatch stated that the victim called back and stated the tailgate was located; friends had removed the tailgate as a joke.

Status: Closed

District Four- Stotonic Area –

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

Lone Butte Area

THEFT (SHOPLIFTING) – 200328-01532 Officers were dispatched to Love's in reference to a prior shoplifting that occurred. Investigation revealed the suspect entered the store and began to place items into a bag that suspect was carrying. Store employees attempt-

ed to speak to the suspect; the suspect mumbled unknown words and proceeded out of the store passing the point of sale. A license plate number was captured and follow up will be conducted with the registered owner. A copy of the video surveillance will be impounded into evidence.

Status: Open Investigation

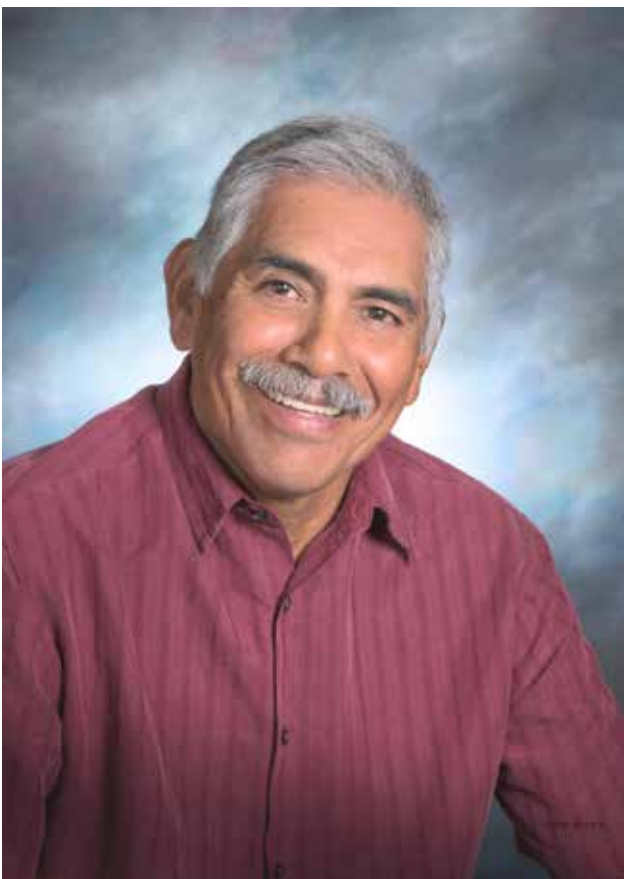
District Five- (Casa Blanca) NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Six – (Komatke) NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Seven – (Maricopa) NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

A'AGA

Something to be told or talked about



By Billy Allen

This troubling COVID-19 will become part of our history. As this is being written, GRIC and the two counties bordering our reservation have confirmed cases. Please heed all the advice given about how to protect you and your families. In the book *The Pima-Maricopa* by Henry F. Dobyns, he notes that 150 years ago, O'otham/Piipaash populations were decreasing due to war, star-

vation, and disease. I may be an elder, but I can be a warrior against COVID-19 and stay social distant on my couch watching TV – especially old westerns. This is one keli O'otham who doesn't want history to repeat itself. Too much TV isn't good for me, so I roamed the Internet looking at past Aprils to see what events had taken place in Arizona, and this article shares a few with you.

On April 6, 1967, TV

filming sets were completed at Old Tucson for a new western series "The High Chaparral." Some buildings were added on to earlier movie set buildings put up in 1940 for the Columbia Pictures movie "Arizona." Local Tohono O'odham were hired to help build historically accurate adobe and wood structures. Older GRICs can recognize westerns filmed there: Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, Rio Bravo, El Dorado, and Tombstone are a few. In the westerns some of the extras in the background were Tohono O'odham. Imagine that – Indians playing Indians! One such Tohono O'odham actress was Mrs. Rose Hannah Higgins, known as Princess Sun Leaf. In 1940, the American Indians of Hollywood awarded Mrs. Higgins a basket for her performance in the movie, "Santa Fe Trail," as the "most distinguished contribution to motion pictures by an American Indian in 1940." Rose Higgins can be seen and heard speaking O'odham in westerns such as Northern Pursuit, Ramrod, and North of the Great Divide.

The town of Florence turned on its first electric street light on April 13, 1917. Levi Ruggles, who later on became known as

the "Father of Florence," was our Indian Agent from 1866 to 1869. He did some good for our ancestors. As settlers began to move onto the Florence area, Ruggles pushed for extension of our O'odham/Piipaash reservation to include the Florence area. He was well aware that O'odham traditionally farmed this area. Sadly, that extension didn't happen. More sadness: when he was released from his post as Indian Agent, Ruggles led settlers to move to Florence. A large canal for their farms—along with Ruggles' farm—diverted our river water. Further upstream Mormon settlers in Safford were diverting the Gila too. The akimel got more and more shallow, and at times it disappeared. This led to disease and starvation and our population decreased.

The Arizona Historical Society and Southern Pacific Railroad erected a stone marker over the graves of Union soldiers who died in the skirmish with Confederate forces at Picacho Pass on April 15, 1928. The military drama which led to the Picacho Pass battle began in Vahki at Ammi White's house/flour mill/store earlier between March 9 – 11, 1862. Most O'otham and Piipaash spoke Spanish as a second language, so White's House became known as Casa Blanca.

On April 18, 1924 the Chiricahua National Monument was established. The National Monument has a sordid history in regards to Natives. Some of the following information is taken from their Monument site. In the mid-1800s, Cochise was the leader of the Chokonon band of Chiricahua Apache who consid-

ered the Chiricahua Mountains their homelands. Cochise operated from this unconquerable mountain that became known as the Cochise Stronghold. In 1872, General O.O. Howard and Tom Jeffords approached the Stronghold to talk peace. Out of these talks, Cochise procured a reservation for his people which included much of modern day Cochise County in southeast Arizona. Cochise died in 1874, which left the Chiricahua without a strong central leader. The U. S. government took advantage resulting in the relocation of the Chiricahua to San Carlos. On May 3, 1876, the commissioner of Indian Affairs ordered the Chiricahua reservation closed. Another old TV series, "Broken Arrow" had Cochise as one of the main characters. This show lives on YouTube!

On April 25, 1854, the Gadsden Purchase was ratified and signed by the President Franklin Pierce and became effective on June 30, 1854. A boundary survey team was deployed to lay a new southern border between the U. S. and Mexico. All O'otham and Piipaash who lived south of the Gila remained Mexican nationals until June 25, 1856. A couple of days later, six headmen of the O'otham/Piipaash accompanied Headman Azul and two Tohono O'odham headmen from San Xavier to Nogales to meet with Major Emory, who was in charge of the boundary survey. The O'odham wanted to know if "if their rights and titles to the land" would be honored by the U. S. considered citizens Natives Major Emory said the

U. S. would honor Mexican custom and law.

In less than 20 years, we were surrounded with towns — like an epidemic. Phoenix became official on April 10, 1874. The canals of the Huhugam were redug to deliver water to their farms. Phoenix "rose" from the ashes and so will our community. Go with the flow, follow the social distancing rules, and use precious shudag to ward off the virus.

Sources used were *Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection, Papago Indian Actress, 1941; The Pima-Maricopa Indians by Henry Dobyns, 1989; Peoples of the Middle Gila by John P. Wilson, 2014; and Michael Lewis, Walk through Your Favorite Westerns at Old Tucson Movie Studios, Sioux City Journal, 2016.*

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMMUNICATION SITE LEASE AT SEED FARM AND BLUEBIRD ROADS

The Natural Resource Standing Committee ("NRSC") will be considering the Environmental Assessment Form from the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. regarding a communication site lease on approximately 1.33 acres of land near Seed Farm and Bluebird Roads at their regular meeting on May 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., located in Conference Room C of the Community Council Secretary's Office. A copy of the Environmental Assessment Form its entirety is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary's Office. If you are interested in providing comments to the Environmental Assessment Form, please attend the scheduled NRSC meeting. You may also contact your Council representative or the NRSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720. Written comments may be emailed to Casandra Wallace at casandra.wallace@gric.nsn.us or mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Casandra Wallace.

District 7 members lineup for food pick up

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community continued its proactive measures to ensure the well being of members since dealing with the oncoming COVID-19 Pandemic. Over the last two weeks, food and household items were distributed to Community members and urban members. These have helped families, especially dealing with the lack of food and crucial household necessities like toilet paper.

On March 27, 28 and 29, the Community distributed thousands of food boxes to Community members. Surrounding pick up sites were also available for urban members. Half of the boxes arrived in Districts 1, 2, 7, and two off Community areas for urban members on Saturday March 28 and on Sunday, March 29, the remaining boxes were distributed to Districts 3, 4, 5, and 6.

This weekend was the third distribution that was in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, Executive Office, and Gila River Hotels & Casinos. Foods included rice, macaroni, flour, bread, beans, potatoes, fruit, oatmeal, and other small provisions.

District 7 Council Representative Devin Redbird



Trucks arrive with food deliveries in District 7. Kyle Knox/GRIN

said, "it took 40 members from OEM to pack the boxes over two days, and the Community is grateful for the work they've done to make this possible." He mentioned that OEM worked around-the-clock to ensure the boxes were prepped correctly, and they had a smooth method of transporting and distributing the items throughout the Community.

Cars and trucks filled with families had to wait but were thankful for everything provided. Service center staff loaded everything for everyone

that minimized the person to person contact, ensuring everyone's safety.

"No one saw this coming, but it's our job to help those, especially those who can't help themselves, at this scale. But seeing the smiling faces of our Community members is what makes the tireless work worth it," said Redbird.

More distributions will occur for the Community where they will provide more water and toilet paper. Additionally, they will include meat products, keeping in mind those on dialysis that require protein.



District 5 set up a hand sanitizing station at the Multipurpose Building entrance. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Districts service centers open with limited staff, GRPD high visibility patrols still in place

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Community Services Department continues preventative measures and practicing social distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. District service centers remain open but with limited staff. Services still available are burial assistance and emergency work orders i.e. water line breaks, water heaters, A/C unit repair, sewer issues, and

water leaks. All HEAP applications for electrical payments for Community members will be processed internally during the pandemic. CSD has stated that there will be no disconnections for electricity during this time

The Gila River Police Department has closed their lobby to the public until further notice. They continue to encourage everyone to limit the information shared on social

media regarding what supplies they or do not have at home. High visibility patrols are still in place to help maintain order and ensure the safety of the public in concentrated housing areas. Sex offenders are still expected to complete their 90-day registrations under the Title & Section 8 of the GRIC Code & SORNA, for more information on this you can contact Detective E. Poolaw at (520) 562-7105.

Complete guide at www.grbc.tv/schedule		GRBC TV GUIDE						*Schedule is subject to change.
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Sunday 3/5		Monday 3/6	Tuesday 3/7	Wednesday 3/8	Thursday 3/9	Friday 3/10	Saturday 3/11	
12:00pm	Native Planet - United States <i>Travel to the Navajo Nation, across New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.</i>	MONDAY MEMORIES LOCAL CONTENT FROM 2015	TUESDAY LINEUP LOCAL CONTENT FROM 2016	WESTCOAST WEDNESDAY LOCAL CONTENT FROM 2017	THROWBACK THURSDAY LOCAL CONTENT FROM 2018	FLASHBACK FRIDAY LOCAL CONTENT FROM 2019	IT'S A MARATHON! DOWNTIME W/ROB & CLAUDE JACKSON	
12:30pm								
1:00pm	Storytellers In Motion <i>Bak Wo Son (Reflections)</i>							
1:30pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS							
2:00pm	The Huunam of Paakuma <i>Interact with Native tribal educators and learn about native culture and history in the region.</i>							
2:30pm								
3:00pm	Ojibwemotaadidaa! <i>Let's Speak Ojibwe</i>							
3:30pm	Souza on the Rez: Marching to the Beat of a Different							
4:00pm	Medicine Game <i>The Iroquois people play a ceremonial game of lacrosse, referred to as the "medicine game" -</i>							
4:30pm								
5:00pm	The Potlatch Keepers <i>Elders in her community ask youth to return home to learn and preserve their fading cultural keystone.</i>							
5:30pm								
6:00pm	Red Earth Uncovered <i>Thunderstruck</i>							
6:30pm	The Medicine Line <i>Dance Art</i>							
7:00pm	Aboriginal Adventures <i>Crab Fishing</i>							
7:30pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS							
8:00pm	Native Shorts <i>Am They Weapon</i>							
8:30pm	The Aux <i>Compilation of music videos featuring diverse talents of Native & World Indigenous cultures.</i>							
9:00pm								
9:30pm	Blue Gap Boyz <i>In the small town of Blue Gap, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation three brothers combine their talents to form the greatest band.</i>							
10:00pm								
10:30pm								
11:00pm	Circus Without Borders <i>Two figures committed to change, with the talent to achieve it.</i>							
11:30pm								
O: 520.796.8848		<i>Please be safe and limit your traveling as much as possible!</i>						www.grbc.tv

Community members finding ways to cope during COVID-19

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many states across the U.S. have issued stay home orders, including Arizona, which Gov. Doug Ducey announced on Monday, March 31. GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis also announced that the Community will consider a similar order for the Community. It is strongly encouraged to stay home to prevent the spread of the virus.

The pandemic has brought on many changes and staying home can be difficult for some. Every day we hear new and constantly changing information which can be hard and overwhelming to keep up with. Fear and anxiety about the disease can cause stress in adults and children. Some of that stress can include fear and worry of your own health and your loved ones, changes in sleeping or eating, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, worsening chronic health problems, and/or an increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. All of which can impact both your mental and physical health.

There are many things you can do to help cope and adapt to these sudden lifestyle changes in a healthy way. Taking breaks from the news and social media, limiting your exposure to negative information may help to ease some of your anxiety. Make time to unwind, relax, do activities you enjoy or try new things. Some ideas can include learning a new skill or craft, writing or journaling, dusting off your old musical instrument and reconnecting with your creative side will help with stress. Take the time to get household chores done that you may have been putting off, do some organizing, rearranging your environment will create a sense of control and change. With limited food resources, you might want to work on your cooking skills, find old recipes and try some traditional ways of preparing food from basic ingredients. Taking a break from junk food will also help to improve your mental state.

Although we are required to practice social distancing, there are still many ways you can stay connected with one another through a simple phone call, text, email or social media. Not just through friends and family but throughout the Community as well. Gila River Wellness Center has taken the approach of utilizing social media to provide videos



Gila River Wellness Center presents Healthy Choices with Health Education Specialist, Tiffany Boni on topics such as improving your immune system, tips and tricks. Gila River Wellness Center

of home workouts, fitness challenges, and even trivia to stay connected and in-

teract with the Community. The internet is filled with many resources that will

help you learn and stay active and informed.



GROWING READERS AND DEVELOPING LEADERS



GROWING READERS BOOK MAIL SIGN UP

DO YOU HAVE CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 3-7?

OUR PROGRAM WILL MAIL BOOKS TO YOUR HOME FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO READ TOGETHER.

BY SIGNING UP YOUR CHILD WILL RECEIVE A TOTAL OF 100 BOOKS BEGINNING IN APRIL 2020.

Sign up online at the following link:

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This program is free to your child courtesy of Growing Readers and Developing Leaders!

For questions or more information contact:
Charlotte Forte',
Literacy Coordinator
Charlotte.Forte.Edu@gric.nsn.us (520) 562-3662

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RODNEY BLAINE LEWIS “ROD”

NOVEMBER 15, 1940 - APRIL 10, 2018

WATER PROTECTOR AND DEFENDER
OF HIS PEOPLE



THE LAW OF THE RIVER

Death is not the end
it is reaching the river
and reclaiming it.

It is becoming the river.
This is the Law of the River.

I have reached my river now
and I have reclaimed it for all eternity.

I am the river now
and the river is me.
This is The Law of the River.

But my journey to the river was always for you
and I reclaimed it just for you.

And when you reach your river
you will find me there waiting for you.

And together we will become the river
and the river will be all of us together.

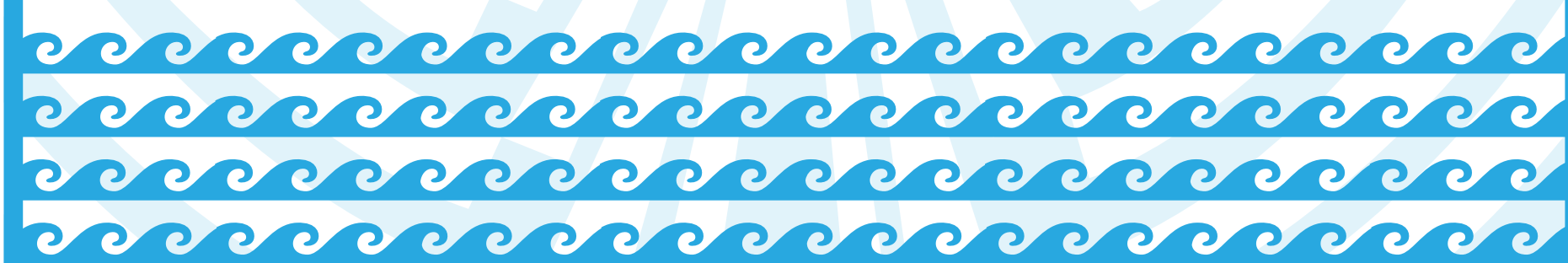
This is the Law of the River.

I have lived the Law of the River
with the river as my guide.

I am the river now
and the river is me.

This is The Law of the River.

by willardene lewis





HEADLINES EXECUTIVE OFFICE

"Putting Our People First"



Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Robert Stone
Lt. Governor

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE DIRECT RELIEF PAYMENTS TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Communication & Public Affairs Office

Gila River Indian Community

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis announced the Gila River Indian Community Council has approved the creation of a COVID-19 relief fund, using surplus funds from Community accounts, to provide the Community government

with the ability to take action quickly to meet the needs of the Community and its members. The first approved expenditure from the COVID-19 Emergency Fund will be a direct payment to all community members 18 years of age and older, in the amount of \$500. Funds are also set aside to provide food for Community members, both

on and off the Gila River Indian Reservation.

Gov. Lewis explained, "This payment is to assist you, our Community members in meeting the unexpected needs you are now all confronting and ensure that you are able to focus on your health and not your finances."

The COVID-19 Emergency Fund was approved

by the Community Council at a Special Meeting on March 24. The Council also approved amendments to an interim employee leave policy extending leave benefits for COVID-19 related issues, approved a teleworking policy, and a resolution allowing the Community Council and its Standing Committees to meet remotely if necessary

during this time.

The Community government has also been very active in meeting the essential needs of Community members, including deliveries of food, water and essential items. While the Community government is closed, certain departments and programs will continue to provide essential services and functions to the

Community, and all public safety departments will remain fully operational.

The COVID-19 Emergency payment will be paid on Friday, April 3, 2020. Members will receive the funds in the same payment method they currently receive Per Capita disbursements.

GILA RIVER HOTELS & CASINOS - WILD HORSE PASS, LONE BUTTE AND VEE QUIVA EXTENDS CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE UNTIL APRIL 30

Gila River stands together with its employees, offering continued paid leave and benefits during closure

Teaya Vicente

Gila River Hotels & Casinos

CHANDLER, Ariz. (March 30, 2020) – Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. has extended the closure of Gila River Hotels & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva.

The voluntary short-term closure, originally scheduled to end on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, has been extended until Thursday, April 30, 2020.

Gila River Hotels & Casinos has made a strong commitment to ensure every team member will continue to be paid and receive

benefits through April 30, 2020.

"As a gaming and hospitality leader in Arizona, we look forward to reopening our doors and providing the ultimate entertainment experience for our guests in the Valley," said Kenneth Manuel, Chief Executive Officer for Gila River Ho-

tels & Casinos.

"However, our priority is the health and wellbeing of the community and we are doing our part to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus at this time. We are all stronger together and will continue to support our team members and community during these

unprecedented times."

Gila River Hotels & Casinos will continue to keep our guests updated regarding the reopening of all three properties. For more information regarding promotions, concerts, and future hotel room reservations please visit website at PlayAtGila.com

Gila River Hotels & Casinos will continue to monitor this situation closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Arizona Department for Health and Human Services (AZDHS).

\$2 trillion relief bill will aid American economy during coronavirus outbreak

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A stimulus bill was reached amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic to aid in relief of millions of Americans across the nation. Members of the Senate, Congress and the White House, agreed to a Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) act in the amount of \$2.2 trillion.

The CARES Act was passed during two separate sessions in the Senate on March 24 and Congress on March 25, which led to the biggest bailout in the history of the nation.

The relief package is meant to help the economy, businesses, medical workers, state and local governments during the pandemic. Part of the deal, will include \$10 billion for Indian Country, \$8 billion will be disbursed among tribal governments to reimburse them for expenses related to COVID-19 operations, according to the Associated Press.

"Provisions in the act are for the benefit of Indian Country includes a major influx of new funds for

IHS, which will be critical to GRHC and a major increase in funding for our tribal government," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

He said allocated funding will help off-set the loss of tribal revenues from shutting down their tribal enterprises, like tribal gaming facilities. "We will work very hard to ensure, that the Community benefits from this bill," said Lewis.

Additionally, the AP article states, more than \$1 billion will go towards the Indian Health Service, and tribes who run their own health facilities. In a press release from Sen. Tom Udall, \$2 billion will go towards emergency supplemental funding for tribes, and urban populations.

Breaking down the numbers for the broader population, a large chunk of the \$2 trillion will go towards the business sector, with \$350 billion to small businesses in the form of loans and \$500 billion for loans to companies in economic danger.

Furthermore, \$250 billion will be allocated to individuals and families and \$250 billion going to unemployment insurance benefits for those out of work.

HEALTH ALERT

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

COVID-19 virus is spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 ft.) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Preventative Tips

on Stopping the Spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- **WASH YOUR HANDS** often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **AVOID TOUCHING** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **COVER YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES** with a tissue or cough or sneeze in your sleeve.
- **AVOID SHARING** household items with a person who is ill with a respiratory illness.
- **CLEAN ALL SURFACES** such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, & bedside tables daily.
- **MONITOR YOUR SYMPTOMS** if you have a cough, fever and are having trouble breathing, please contact your health care provider and take steps to keep other people from getting infected.
- **PRIOR TO OR UPON ARRIVAL** to the hospital/clinic, please notify us of your symptoms. Wear a face mask to protect yourself and others.
- **WEAR A FACEMASK** when you are in a room with other people. Masks are available at the entrances of our healthcare facilities.

GRHC Coronavirus Hotline
(520) 550-6079



GRIC:
www.mygilariver.com
Phone:
520.562.5132
Email:
Elizabeth.antonio@gric.nsn.us



GRHC:
www.grhc.org
Phone:
520.562.3321
Email:
swelch@grhc.org



OEM:
OEM2@gric.nsn.us
Phone:
520.610.8120
Email:
bruce.harvey@gric.nsn.us

For the most up to date information, please visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March 18, 2020

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, March 18, 2020, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:14 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Janice Stewart

ROLL CALL

Sign-in Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Robert Stone

Council Members Present:

D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Monica Antone (9:24), Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Pamela Johnson; D5- Janice Stewart, Marlin Dixon, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth

Council Members Absent:

D6-Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND to table Reports #7, New Business #1, #2, and #3 and dispense Presentation/Introductions #1 and Report #4

MOTION MADE AND SECOND to accept Reports #1 through #3 and #6 and Resolutions #2 through #4 an on the consent agenda

MOTION MADE AND SECOND to dispense Minutes #3; add Resolution #6 under the consent agenda; and approve the regular agenda as amended

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Gila River Close Up Program and Introduction of Participants

Presenter: Michael Preston

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Introduction Of New K-12 Student Advisor

Presenter: Trina Hart

Ms. Trina Hart introduced Ms. Shelly Aday. Ms. Aday provided a brief overview of her background and work within the Community. Various Council Members and Governor Stephen R. Lewis expressed words of welcome and congratulations.

REPORTS

>1. GRTI Notice of Filing – Federal Communications Commission Form 555 Annual Filing

Presenters: Courtney Hogancamp, GRTI Board of Directors

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. GRTI 4Q 2019 Update

Presenters: James Meyers, Jennifer Burkhalter

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. FY 2020 2nd Quarter Pee-Posh Veterans Association Budget Report

Presenter: Arnie Bread, Sr.

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Presenter: Candalerian Preston

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. Gila River Educational Standard For Culture And Language

Presenters: Jarrod Lewis, Anthony Gray

REPORT HEARD

>6. Head Start Monthly Report – January 2020

Presenter: Carolina Kelley

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. GRICUA Report – FY 20 1st Quarter (October 1,

2019 – December 31, 2019)

Presenter: John Lewis, Leonard Gold

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO enter Executive Session

*8. FY20 Monthly Financial Activity Report ending January 31, 2020 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

[Governor Stephen R. Lewis called for a 10-minute break. The meeting reconvened at 10:26 a.m. with Lt. Governor Robert Stone chairing the meeting.]

9. CY 2019 Office of the General Counsel Annual Report (Executive Session)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Gaming Commission General Report to the Community Council for December 2019 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Duane Johns, Courtney Moyah

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Gaming Commission Board & Supplemental Administrative General Report to the Community Council for January 2020 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Duane Johns, Courtney Moyah

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO eXIT Executive Session

MOTION MADE AND SECOND to accept Reports #9, #10 and #11

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Gila River Indian Community Liquor License To The Lone Butte Trade Center 3 LLC For Use At The Lone Butte Trade Center 3 Smoke Shop And Convenience Store, Located In The Lone Butte Development Park At The Intersection Of Sundust Road And Nelson Road (G&MSC forwards to Council on March 18, 2020 with recommendation for approval and a presentation be provided to District 4 prior to the Council Meeting)

Presenters: David Montiel, Verrin Kewenvoyouma, Ronald Rosier

APPROVED

>2. A Resolution Approving The Compensation Rate Scale For Gila River Indian Community Election Officials For Performance Of Election Duties And Responsibilities (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation of option number three for approval with changes, and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Nadine Shelde

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Granting Additional Permanent Irrigation Easement To The United States Of America For The Westside VA (Future Regulating Reservoir) Pipeline On Portions Of Allotted Trust Land Located Within The Exterior Boundary Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Setting The Amount Of Compensation Due To The Community For The Community's Undivided Interests In Such Allotted Trust Land (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: David DeJong

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

.4. A Resolution By The Gila River Indian Community In Support Of Bridging The Tribal Digital Divide Act Of 2020 (EDSC forwards to LSC; LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Jim Meyers, GRTI Board Of Directors

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. A Resolution Requesting That The Gila River Indian Community Election Board Set An Election On The Attached Proposed Constitution Amendments Pursuant To Article XVII Of The Constitution And Bylaws Of The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval under Resolutions) Presenters: Javier Ramos

APPROVED

[Addendum to Agenda]

>6. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying The Construction Agreement Between The Gila River Gila River Indian Community And Sundt Construction, Inc. To Construct The Renovation And Expansion Of The Wild Horse Pass Hotel And Casino

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Amendments To The Constitution (LSC forwards to Council under Unfinished Business with a recommendation to approve the ballot language)

Presenters: Javier Ramos & CPAO

MOTION MADE AND SECOND to approve the ballot language

NEW BUSINESS

1. WHPDA Quarterly Report (EDSC forwards to the Regular Council Meeting of March 18, 2020 with a recommendation for a Special Council Meeting with Wild Horse Pass Development)

Presenters: David White, Management Team, WHPDA Board of Directors

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Council Work Session with Money Managers (G&MSC forwards to Council with the suggested date of June 18, 2020, and the location to be determined)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. GRIC Suicide Analysis GAP Analysis Work Group Annual Report (H&SSC forwards to Council under New Business to set a date for a work session)

Presenters: Priscilla Foote, Jaime Arthur

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Code Of Conduct – Preliminary Assessment (LSC motioned to recommend to the Community Council that the complaint on Pamela C. Johnson be dismissed pursuant to GRIC Code 1.501 (B)(5).)

Presenters: Shannon White, Thomas Murphy

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO dismissed the complaint on Pamela C. Johnson

5. Education Research Proposal – Tammie T. Morago University Of Arizona Student (ESC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Tammie T. Morago

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

MINUTES

1. February 19, 2020 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND to approve with correction

2. March 4, 2020 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND to approve with correction

3. March 5, 2020 (Special)

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:04 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

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HEALTH ALERT

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

It is important to know that the risk of contracting COVID-19 is low. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking preventive measures.

Message to Our Elders:

Elders are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19; as a result, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that you Stay Home as much as possible and practice Social Distancing.

WHY DO I NEED TO STAY HOME WHEN I'M NOT SICK?

You may be ok now, but it takes 3-10 days to show signs of a COVID-19 infection. Additionally, many people do not show symptoms and could pose a threat to the elderly and immune-compromised. Those individuals are at higher risk of catching COVID-19. To help slow the spread, the CDC and GRHC strongly recommend that everyone do their part to protect the most vulnerable members of our Community by practicing Social Distancing.

WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Social Distancing means avoiding large crowds and staying at home as much as possible.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

Make sure you have access to several weeks of medications and supplies in case you need to stay home for prolonged periods of time.



PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

- Stay home if possible
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick (6 feet, which is about two arm lengths)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with dirty hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF COVID-19?

Important: If you feel like you are developing symptoms, call your provider right away! Emergency warning signs include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

For general info about Coronavirus, go to [GRHC.org/Coronavirus](https://www.grhc.org/coronavirus)

GRHC CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE
(520) 550-6079



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Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449