



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Gila River Indian Community increases testing capabilities



Gila River Health Care screening stations. Photo Courtesy of Gila River Health Care

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community implements Abbot analyzers to test frontline staff and increase availability of testing. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis updated the Community about the need to increase testing for patients coming in with symptoms associated with COVID-19 during a video address on April 22.

“We’ve already been able to put this into effect, using the Abbott analyzer to test key employees in the facility where COVID-19 was detected to confirm that none of the employees were infected and could remain at their stations,” said Lewis.

He said the ability to test employees and get results in a matter of minutes is crucial in caring for the welfare and safety of health-care and first responders on the frontline. It also allows the Community to maintain a level of critical services to GRIC members during a health crisis.

Lewis added, “the Community has entered into a partnership with the Mayo Clinic – Phoenix Campus to increase the availability of testing, with results that are expected within 48 hours. Through contacts initiated by our Senate Delegation of Kyrsten Sinema and Martha McSally, I spoke with Dr. Richard Gray and we formed a partnership that will allow use of Mayo Clinic labs for testing”

In addition, Gila River Health Care is working to bring TGEN, a local genomics research institute that has the capability to test for COVID-19. “[These] testing sources, will allow us to roll-out a broader testing plan. With increase testing, we can expand out to other vulnerable areas of the Community.”

Lewis said, “Seeking ways to increase testing capacity has paid off.” Testing numbers have significantly gone up throughout his recent video updates as the Community explores ‘new ways’ to improve testing.

GRIC schools will still honor class of 2020

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

While many are finding ways to cope with stay at home orders from the coronavirus outbreak, Gila River Indian Community students must also contend with their own changes in education for the remainder of 2020. The spring semester is the end of the school year in GRIC. It is the capstone to their academic accomplishments followed by graduations and promotions. These occasions typically include gymnasiums and venues packed with families and family celebrations.

With the world dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, social and physical distancing has forced everyone to reconsider their academic celebrations. Today, all schools must consider new ways to honor student accomplishments including Sacaton Middle School and Gila Crossing Community School.

Sacaton Elementary School District Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Paul said, “We want to make sure that all our eighth graders

know that we’re going to do something for them and with them.”

Likewise, Gila Crossing Superintendent Jim Mosely is actively considering the safety of staff for their promotion, and plans are still in development. Mosely did acknowledge the new school’s first promotion stating, “It’s sad, we started our first year in this brand-new facility, and I hope that we may be able to have some sort of promotion at some point for these eighth graders.”

Both school administrators agreed that it’s vital for this year’s eighth grade students to be recognized for their accomplishments.

Many schools, teachers, and families are exploring ways to celebrate for different milestones that adhere to social distancing. Many are hosting “virtual” gatherings with their families.

Another popular option that many are trying is “parades” for students hosted by teachers and staff. There are a variety of ways these occur where sometimes the parade of well-wishers drives by honking and yelling words of encouragement outside a person’s

home. Or at times the honoree drives past their well-wishers as they cheer them on.

As the state considers reopening businesses and services in May, many schools are refraining from hosting any graduations for now. Gila Crossing may host a small gathering on campus for students and families. Though if a small ceremony is a planned, Mr. Mosely indicated that it might occur later in the year, and a parade or virtual ceremony are still options.

And for now, Sacaton Middle School is planning a “Promotion Parade” for their eighth grade class. The school plans to welcome all the graduates and families to drive in front of the school, for a small gift along with special signs created specifically for their students. Teachers and faculty will line on one side of their street in their graduation regalia, in hopes of inspiring the eighth graders to pursue higher education.

In the future, more plans will unfold for all schools as the state reopens. Planning for this is

all new territory for everyone to think about when it comes to promotions. Traditional graduations with addresses from dignitaries,

walking across the stage may be on hold. Still, inevitably, schools and families will find a way to recognize their students.



Sacaton Middle School eighth grade promotion from 2018. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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HEALTH ALERT

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Disinfectants are not to be ingested or injected into the body as a method for combating COVID-19.

We at GRHC wish for all our patients to know that it is never appropriate to ingest or inject a disinfectant or household cleaner. Please use these products as intended – to clean a surface such as a countertop or a bathroom fixture. To do otherwise can cause grave injury or death.

If you or someone you know has ingested a cleaner or disinfectant, please seek emergency medical care immediately. To learn more about how to clean and disinfect your home correctly, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/cleaning-sanitizing/household-cleaning-sanitizing.html>

For general info about the Coronavirus, go to GRHC.org/Coronavirus

GRHC CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE
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Gardening During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Many of us are struggling to find ways to stay busy during the COVID-19 pandemic while practicing isolation and self-distancing. Gardening can help. It can be a relaxing activity with great personal rewards.



Here are some benefits of gardening:

- May help cope with boredom
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Are you new to gardening?

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



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Robert Stone

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District 3 Head Start holds a social distancing parade for children

Submitted by
Annie Gutierrez
Gila River Indian Community

On Friday, April 24, teachers and staff of the D3 Head Start Center came together to host a social distancing parade for their students in the program. Teachers and staff decorated their personal vehicles and coordinated with families all in efforts to boost spirits of children and their fam-

ilies during the COVID-19 outbreak. Along the parade route, Head Start staff got waves from many members in the community and were excited to see their students and families outside their homes cheering while holding up signs with thoughtful messages.

School closures have students in the community learning from home including students in the Head Start program ages six-

months to five. The once lively and cheerful singing classrooms of D3 Head Start center is quiet for now. Teachers expressed how

much they miss their students and hope to see them back in the classroom soon.



Cars line up for the parade. Photo Courtesy Annie Gutierrez



Aubriella holds a sign for the parade. Photo taken by Andria Jackson (HS Parent)

MAR-5 Interpretive Trail highlighted in Parade.com feature

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On April 17, Parade Magazine highlighted the Community's Managed Aquifer Recharged Site 5 Interpretive Trail as part of its annual Earth Day feature. The feature portion highlighted one location for every state that is both educational and active.

The MAR-5 Interpretive Trail was only one of two sites throughout the country that was Native-based or within a Native American reservation. The other was on the Sioux Nation's Standing Rock Reservation in Cannonball, N.D., which established the biggest solar energy farm in their state.

The author of the article, Kathleen McCleary, stated that "in honor of Earth Day, we're highlighting some of the best Earth Day activities across America. We're inspired, and we hope you are too!" The article hoped to encourage readers to consider visiting the sites and enjoy what they had to offer in terms of education, ecological, and conservation efforts in the area.

The article also cited Governor Stephen Roe Lewis' remarks that "[MAR-5 Interpretive Trail] will be a living tribute to our water rights, our Huhugam [ancestors], and teach our future generations our historic and ongoing ties to the Gila River."

Parade is printed every Sunday and online at Parade.com, where it "provides engaging entertainment coverage supplemented with inspiring stories, home and health content designed to make life and community connections more meaningful."

You can find the original article by visiting parade.com/1022304/kmccleary/earth-day-activities/.



Photograph of MAR-5 featured by Parade Magazine. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department Incident Log

April 19 - 25, 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: 696

Arrest made: 21

District One- (Blackwater)

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - 200422-01895 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference criminal damage. The reporting party stated the suspect had left on foot; officers located the suspect and observed laceration to the face and fresh tire marks to the body as if the suspect was run over. The suspect/victim stated they were attacked while walking on the road. A backpack was pulled off the now victim and taken by force; pulling the shirt and tearing it while struggling during the altercation. The suspect that attacked the victim for the backpack was not located. The victim was transported to an area hospital for further medical treatment.

Status: Open Investigation

District Two - (Sacton Flats)

NO INCIDENTS

INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Three- (Sacton)

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - 200419-01855 Officers were dispatched to the hospital in reference to a juvenile being stabbed during a physical altercation. Only information given was the suspects were attempting to take the victims cell phone but were unsuccessful. The victim was flown by helicopter to an area hospital for further medical treatment. CPS was notified of the incident.

Status: Open Investigation

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - 200422-01888 Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a subject bleeding badly and requesting an ambulance. Upon officer arrival contact was made with the victim and was observed to have a large laceration to the top of their head. Investigation revealed the suspect and victim were drinking alcoholic beverages together and engaged in a physical altercation; the victim and a witness observed the suspect with a hatchet in hand. The hatchet was located in the residence, photographed and entered into evidence. The victim was transported to an area hospital for

further medical treatment. The suspect was not located; charges will be long formed.

Status: Charges Forwarded

BURGLARY - 200421-01877 Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference a burglary. The victim/reporting party stated the suspect had damaged a board covering the window to gain access inside the residence. The suspect damaged a cordless phone after the victim tried to call police; the suspect was not located after a search was conducted in the surrounding area. Photos were taken and charges were forwarded to law office for review.

Status: Charges Forwarded

AUTO THEFT - 200419-01848 The victim called dispatch to report theft of vehicle. During the initial contact it was learned the victim gave the two suspects a ride to Casa Grande and upon returning back to GRIC the male got out of the vehicle and the two suspects drove off in the vehicle. The victim's cell phone, wallet and cash was inside the vehicle. The victim did not know the two suspects and had only given them a ride. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen.

Status: Closed - Vehicle Located

District Four- Stotonic Area -

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - 200420-01861 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference a prior assault. Investigation revealed the suspect came home intoxicated and began to argue with the victim and assaulted the victim causing a laceration above the eye that was actively bleeding. The victim ran to the neighbor's residence to call police. The suspect would not exit the residence and threatened to shoot officers if they did not leave, officers entered and took the suspect into custody. The victim needed stitches but refused to be transported.

Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into jail

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - 200422-01890 Officers were dispatched to a prior assault call. The reporting party stated that multiple subjects were involved but since had left the residence. Investigation revealed the involved parties were intoxicated when a verbal altercation occurred turning into a physical altercation with the victim having visual bruising and scratches. The suspect threw beer cans at the victim before being separated.

Photos taken will be uploaded into evidence; no charges are being submitted until a follow up can be conducted.

Status: Pending Follow Up

SEXUAL ASSAULT - 200425-01929 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to a sexual assault. Detectives arrived on scene and took over the investigation; the suspect was located and detained for questioning. The investigation is still open and will have follow up with victim and suspect.

Status: Open Investigation

BURGLARY - 200424-01914 Officers responded to a residence in reference to a burglary. Investigation revealed that three televisions were taken from the residence and the suspect is unknown. A person of interest has been identified and follow up will be conducted.

Status: Open Investigation

AUTO THEFT - 200421-01876 Officers were dispatched in reference to an auto theft. The victim stated that the vehicle was left at a residence due to being inoperable; and was notified that the vehicle was no longer there. Officers attempting to contact the homeowner

with negative results; officers searched surrounding areas and places known for the homeowner to frequent ending in negative results. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen.

Status: Closed - Vehicle Located

Lone Butte Area NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Five- (Casa Blanca)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Six - (Komatke)

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - 200420-01864 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to a domestic disturbance. Investigation revealed the victim and suspect were involved in a physical altercation over a vehicle owned by both individuals. During the altercation the victim was cut by the vehicle keys and sustained injuries to the facial area and on the hand; GREMS arrived and transported the victim to the hospital for further treatment. The suspect was located and arrested. Photos were taken and later uploaded into evidence.

Status: Suspect was arrested

BURGLARY - 200419-01844 Officers were dispatched to a construction site in reference to burglary. The surveillance company advised of a subject going in between the fence. The investigation revealed that the suspect took a fire extinguisher from the site and was later located outside the perimeter. The suspect was not identified and the fire extinguisher was booked into evidence.

Status: Closed Pending Suspect Identification

THEFT - 200421-01872 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to theft. Investigation revealed the catalytic converter was taken off of four vehicles belonging to GRIC and the Boys and Girls Club. There is no suspects at this time.

Status: Closed Pending Suspect Identification

District Seven - (Maricopa)

THEFT - 200425-01934 Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a theft. The reporting party stated that a game console and the games were taken by a family friend without permission. It is unknown where the suspect resides. Case closed pending suspect identification.

Status: Closed Pending Suspect Identification

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	Sunday 5/3	Monday 5/4	Tuesday 5/5	Wednesday 5/6	Thursday 5/7	Friday 5/8	Saturday 5/9	
12:00pm	Native Planet - Namibia <i>Why the oldest culture on the planet created a vast conservation area to protect from the outside</i>	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Standing on Sacred Ground <i>Pilgrims & Tourists</i>	
12:30pm		Indigenous Focus <i>Songcatchers</i>	Wild Archaeology <i>Innu of Sheshatshiu</i>	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Future History <i>Wellness</i>	Dabiyuu <i>A Hunter's Wisdom</i>		
1:00pm	Storytellers In Motion <i>Tracey Deer</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Landings and Protocol</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Salmon Come Back</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Drinking from Mom's</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>XaX fla</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Letter From Athabasca</i>	Children of the Desert	
1:30pm	Vitality Gardening	Underexposed <i>Boardercross</i>	Underexposed <i>Raven's Call!</i>	Underexposed <i>Meeting Up</i>	Underexposed <i>The Coastal Crew</i>	Underexposed <i>Old Meets New</i>	Vitality Gardening	
2:00pm	Whaledreamers <i>An aboriginal whale dreaming tribe from the edge of extinction and the equally, long journey of the whales, not only to survive slaughter by man, but engage humans into waking up in time.</i>	Hit The Ice <i>The Assessment</i>	Working It Out Together <i>Self-Esteem</i>	Hit The Ice <i>The Arrival and Intros</i>	Working It Out Together	Hit The Ice <i>Day 1</i>	Urban Native Girl <i>Clock's Ticking</i>	
2:30pm		GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	
3:00pm		Native Planet - Namibia <i>Why the oldest culture on the planet created a vast conservation area to protect from the outside world.</i>	Rez Rides <i>Masters Humble King</i>	On Native Ground: <i>Youth Report</i>	The New Zealanders <i>South of the North</i>	Storytellers in Motion <i>Gail Maurice</i>	Making Regalia <i>Making Dance Sticks</i>	
3:30pm	Goshen <i>Depicting the diet and active lifestyle of the indigenous Tarahumara, a light-footed running tribe, who are striving to maintain their ancient culture against all odds.</i>	First Talk <i>Healing Process</i>	Aboriginal Adventures <i>Klemtu</i>	Common Ground <i>Murray Porter</i>	First Talk <i>Buffy St. Marie Pt.2</i>	On Native Ground: <i>Jewelry Report</i>	Future History <i>Wellness</i>	
4:00pm		Behind The Brush	Indian Pride <i>Tribal Relations w/USA</i>	Making Regalia <i>Making Dance Sticks</i>	People of the Pines <i>Native Resistance</i>	Make Prayers to the Raven	The New Zealanders <i>Passion on the Plains</i>	
5:00pm	Awa O Gbe <i>The ochre of the earth, the women's multicoloured boubous, the sounds of vocal and instrumental</i>	Ambassadors of the Sky <i>How Canada is leading the way when it comes to dark sky preservation and the fight</i>	The Other Side (El Otro Lado)	Carriers of Culture	Mad Cow Sacred Cow <i>A farm crisis, a food crisis and the bizarre journey of a beef-eating Hindu Terrified of his food.</i>	Standing on Sacred Ground <i>Pilgrims & Tourists</i>	Indigenous Focus <i>Place to Call Their Own</i>	
5:30pm			The Whole Enchilada	Keetoowahs Come Home			Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	
6:00pm	Red Earth Uncovered <i>Hairy In Harrison: Pt2</i>	Democracy Now! <i>Discussions with perspectives rarely heard from in mainstream media.</i>	Democracy Now! <i>Discussions with perspectives rarely heard from in mainstream media.</i>	Democracy Now! <i>Discussions with perspectives rarely heard from in mainstream media.</i>	Democracy Now! <i>Discussions with perspectives rarely heard from in mainstream media.</i>	Democracy Now! <i>Discussions with perspectives rarely heard from in mainstream media.</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Too Deadly</i>	
6:30pm	The Medicine Line <i>Daves' Roots</i>						Wild Archaeology <i>Innu of Sheshatshiu</i>	
7:00pm	Aboriginal Adventures <i>Petroglyphs</i>	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Indian Country Today News	Hit The Ice <i>High Hopes</i>	
7:30pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	
8:00pm	Native Shorts <i>My Father's Tools</i>	Red Earth Uncovered <i>A Small World: Part 1</i>	Cashing In <i>Boys and Their Toys</i>	Chaos & Courage <i>Urban Rescue</i>	Native Shorts <i>Plains Empty/ Flat</i> <i>Short films produced, premiered or showcased at the Sundance Film Festival</i>	The Aux <i>A rotating compilation of music videos f/ diverse talents of Native American & World Indigenous</i>	Cashing In <i>Boys and Their Toys</i>	
8:30pm	The Aux <i>A rotating compilation of music videos f/ diverse talents of Native American & World Indigenous</i>	Indians and Aliens <i>The Navajo Files</i>	Studio 49 <i>Cody Coyote</i>	Tribal Police Files <i>The Pursuit</i>	The Head Hunter <i>In a remote Indian forest dwells an old man from a forgotten tribe once dreaded for its practice of head hunting.</i>	First Nations Comedy <i>Experience Graham Elwood hosts Beef Archambault, Chuck Cease, Shishonia Livingston, and Injunuity</i>	Mixed Blessings <i>Secret Love</i>	
9:00pm		The Process <i>The desperation of a secret Jihadist base in Southern Gaza means that violence is met with violence.</i>	Borderland Blues <i>A barren desert of cacti and scrubland has become the loci of a major political issue - immigration into the U.S.</i>	A New Island: <i>Marshallese In Arkansas Claims between U.S. and Marshall Islands are</i>			Maina <i>In the aftermath of a bloody confrontation between her band, the Innu tribe, and the Inuits, the "Men from the Land of Ice," MAINA, daughter of Grand Chief Mishte-Napeu, finds herself on a mission that will change the course of her life.</i>	
9:30pm	Blue Gap Boyz <i>On the Navajo Rez 3 bros combine their talents to form the greatest band, (because it's the only one), Blue Gap has ever known!</i>	Storm in the Andes <i>She travels back to Peru and meets Flor, whose brother was imprisoned for belonging to Shining Path.</i>	Aztec: Pyramids of War <i>Part 1. A look at the rise and fall of the Aztec empire, which once flourished in what is now Mexico but was</i>	Landing: Stories from the Cultural Divide		Rez		
10:00pm				Voices of Hope <i>Hope from our Noble</i>				
10:30pm								
11:00pm	Smoke Traders <i>The story of the contraband tobacco trade and the effect on individual lives and communities from a Native perspective.</i>	K2 and the Invisible <i>Footmen K2, seen as the world's harshest mountain, yet indigenous porters make a living in its extreme conditions</i>	Aztec: Pyramids of War <i>Conclusion...but was destroyed in a series of battles with Spanish explorer Hern'n Cort's, who arrived with his army in 1519</i>	Looking Toward Home <i>Natives leaving the rez for life in cities as they attempt to maintain their cultural identity while living away from the culturally nurturing climate of the tribal</i>	Wisdom of the Grandmothers <i>The importance of the voices of elder women in today's world. Love, community, creativity, family, faith and spirituality.</i>	Jaynelle <i>Jaynelle grew up in Winnipeg's Core having a bad childhood through alcoholism, drugs, and violence. She was sexually abused by babysitters as a child. At</i>	Places Not Our Own <i>Rose is determined her kids have a normal life and education. Her hopes reside in daughter Flora, but the harshness of their situation culminates in a</i>	
11:30pm								

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Gila River Indian Community continues in efforts to slow the spread of coronavirus

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

In continued efforts to slow the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19, the Gila River Indian Community has extended the partial shutdown of government departments and offices until Friday, May 15. The Community also extended suspension of travel for Community employees. Funeral services, wakes and cremations have been allowed to take place under conditions that no more than 10 people attend and must wear PPE. Families are encouraged to consider larger memorial services once

the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Executive Order No. 6 was also amended on April 30 to extend the “Stay at Home” order for GRIC.

Through an on-going series of video updates from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis on the Community’s official Facebook page, on April 29, he stated that there has been a total of 996 COVID-19 tests conducted by Gila River Health Care (GRHC). 915 of those tests are negative, 33 pending, and 3 canceled by the reference lab. 45 positive cases for the coronavirus, 13 of those are Community members.

Gov. Lewis contin-

ues to make testing one of the key priorities while working with GRHC and the Community’s Tribal Health Department, “Testing allows us to see where any COVID-[19] cases are, where resources are needed and allows the Community Council, Lt. Gov. Stone and myself to make critical on-going decisions related to the health, safety, and economic welfare of the Community,” said Gov. Lewis in his April 29 video update.

On April 28, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey announced the state’s stay at home order will also be extended until May 15, with some modifications

that would allow certain business to reopen under proper safety protocols. The state’s stay home order was originally set to expire on May 1.

Gila River Hotels & Casinos also extended their closures to the May 15, as well as many other casinos. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has extended the closure of their casinos through the month of May.

Local tribal communities continue to combat the coronavirus and prevent the spread. On April 28, a press release from the Navajo Nation announced that they would be issuing another public health

emergency order due to the high number of positive COVID-19 cases. The emergency order enforces a 57-hour weekend curfew on top of a 24-hour “shelter-in-place” order that’s already in effect. The tribe now has 1,873 positive COVID-19 cases with 10,772 tests that have been administered.

The Tohono O’odham Nation extended their departments and programs partial closure until June 4 and their stay at home order will remain in effect until further notice. As of April 24, the Tohono O’odham Nation reported 25 positive cases with 16 members living off the Na-

tion. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has zero positive reported cases of community member for the COVID-19. SRPMIC continues to take precautionary measures with stay home orders and enacted a new civil ordinance that would issue fines for those not obeying the order.

The Gila River Indian Community continues to encourage practicing safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus with physical distancing, wearing a face mask, washing your hands and only leaving the house when necessary.

Gila River Hotels & Casinos Extends Closure Until May 15, 2020

Teaya Vicente
Gila River Hotels & Casinos

CHANDLER, Ariz. (April 28, 2020) – Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. has extended the closure of Gila River Hotels & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte, and Vee Quiva. The temporary closure has been extended until May 15, 2020, as the enterprise

is following the guidance of the Gila River Indian Community Council and Arizona government officials.

The Gila River Indian Community and Gila River Hotels & Casinos will continue to provide compensation for a majority of employees through May 15.

Additionally, due to

the ongoing impact of COVID-19, Gila River Hotels & Casinos has furloughed minimal positions in select departments as part of the enterprise’s plan to modify operations upon their reopening to meet social distancing guidelines. Those who have been furloughed will remain employees of the gaming

enterprise, retain health benefits and be allowed to seek temporary employment during this time.

“We are eager to open our doors, but as of now we feel it’s in the best interest of the community, our guests and employees to remain temporarily closed,” said Kenneth Manuel, Chief Executive Officer for

Gila River Hotels & Casinos. “Our employees are vital to the Gila River Hotels & Casinos experience, and we are doing all we can to support them during this difficult time.”

Gila River Hotels & Casinos will continue to keep guests updated regarding the reopening of all three properties. The en-

terprise will also continue to closely monitor updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

For more information regarding promotions, concerts, and future hotel room reservations please visit PlayAtGila.com

A’AGA

Something to be told or talked about

By Billy Allen

May 2020 – what a month to remember! So many life expectations and goals altered or canceled because of COVID-19. Graduations with balloons and flowers went by the wayside. GRIC members completing their studies in elementary, high school, trade school or college had celebrations changed. Speaking statistically, GRIC is a young community-- 61 out of every 100 people on Gila River Indian Community are between the ages of 18 and 64, and 36% are under 18. So, many in our community were affected by canceled ceremonies. It is disappointing not to gather -- for parents, family, and grandparents to share the pride of earning positive skills and talents for adulthood. Speaking to recent graduates whose ceremony was canceled: that fancy piece of paper, whether it be a diploma, certificate or license will always be yours. It is a record that you completed your course of study— you earned it, even without the hoopla. This can never be taken away. Now put that knowledge and skill to work and help get our lives back to normal.

O’otham, Piipaash,

and Natives have been through tough times before. We’ll get through this too. When Cortes entered Aztec land in 1521, unseen weapons unleashed upon Natives were European diseases. Our genetic makeup had no resistance. It is estimated over 22 million Natives of Mexico and California died within a hundred years of Spanish contact. The Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 caused

at least 50 million deaths worldwide, about 675,000 in the United States. That Spanish Flu and this coronavirus are invisible germs, but other kinds of diseases have hurt our community. Alcohol was illegal for GRIC members until 1948, but destructive patterns still developed. The same can be said with the introduction of the “drug” culture going mainstream in the 1960s.

Kudos and props to all “essential workers” who helped make “stay-at-home” livable. Historically, O’otham and Piipaash farmers were essential workers who kept starvation away. Gila River Indian Community’s adminis-

tration stepped in to take on this ancient role. Essential workers of various departments rallied like troops to hand out life’s necessities: food, water, toilet paper. The big challenge was to get in line before supplies ran out. The temporary peace of mind could not have been any different from what our ancestors felt when food crops were bountiful.

For many in our community, it’s essential that healthcare treatments, appointments, and prescription access continues. Thank you to all personnel on the front lines. Of course, this pandemic goes beyond our boundaries. We are a sovereign nation, but

need outside resources— just as they need us. When you’re out and about using tribal general assistance, per cap, and stimulus monies—maybe on your next toilet paper hunt—it would be nice to thank the essential workers who kept on working. Help your favorite fast food spot or restaurant; order something to pick up on the way home. If you choose to say thanks, say it loud enough so it can be heard. This pandemic brought forth a lot of discussion about what in life is “essential.” Before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. was in Memphis to support sanitation workers on strike. The workers’ slogan was, “I am a man.”

Dr. King asked for solidarity and told the sanitation workers, “You are demonstrating we can stick together... if one person suffers, if one person is down, we are all down.” It sounds like a traditional O’odham and Piipaash thought. Let’s stick together and do the essential steps to help defeat this coronavirus.

Some information was taken from these site; <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-pandemic-h1n1.html> and <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/25200US1310R-gila-river-indian-reservation/>



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2020 GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION & SPECIAL CHIEF JUDGE ELECTION

Gila River Indian Community Council Election for Districts 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 and Special Chief Judge Election will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Polling site locations will be open from 6 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Absentee ballot voting period is April 14 - May 4th.

Please remember to wear a mask or face covering while at the polling site and practice physical distancing.



Joey Whitman



Lorenzo Manuel



Rodney Jackson



Kenyen Thompson



Darren Pedro-Martinez



Carolyn Williams



Joseph Manuel, Jr.



Jennifer Allison



Pamela Johnson



Ramsey Moffett



Regina Antone-Smith



Neda Celaya



John Antone



Merold Porter



Norman Wellington



Marlin Dixon



Laurie A. Thomas



Merry Kris Kyytan



James De La Rosa



Brian E. Davis, Sr.



Terrance B. Evans



Jason Jones



Albert Pablo



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Joseph Manuel Jr.

For D3 Council

Court Date Notice

IN THE COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA
 COURT DATE NOTICE
 In Re Case: Veronica Enos vs. Adrian Reyes
 Docket Number: FM-20 19-00 19-PT
 This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may be ordered.
 Answer/Response Hearing
 Westend Judicial Center,
 475L West Pecos Road,
 Laveen, AZ 85339
 18th day of May, 2020 at 11:00 AM
 in Courtroom VII before the Honorable Dallas Delowe

****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 Casaundra Wallace at casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn.us or mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Casaundra Wallace.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 - SPECIAL ELECTION

By Community Council resolution, GRIC has requested a special election to be held in conjunction with the General Election on Nov. 3, 2020

ARTICLE III:
Membership

ARTICLE XI:
Districts

ARTICLE XV:
Powers of the
Gila River Indian
Community Council

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Deleting the 20-year residency requirement for members:

Currently, Article 3, Section 3 of the Constitution states that a Community member who remains away from the Reservation continuously for 20 years shall automatically forfeit his or her tribal membership.

- A YES vote will remove this language from the Constitution and allow member to keep their membership if they remain away for 20 years.
- A NO vote will keep the current language.

ARTICLE XI DISTRICTS

Currently, Article 11, Section 1 of the Constitution states that the area known as Co-op shall be within District 6; however, the legal boundaries stated in Article 11 place Co-op within District 7.

- A YES vote will change the legal boundaries of District 7 and District 6 to move the area known as Co-op from District 7 to District 6.
- A NO vote will keep the current language.

ARTICLE XV POWERS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Currently Articles 3 and 15 of the Constitution state that the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to review certain kinds of ordinances and resolutions enacted by the Community Council, including civil and criminal codes, and ordinances regulating tribal membership.

- A YES vote will remove the Secretary of the Interior from the Ordinance and Resolution approval process.
- A NO vote will keep the current Constitution.

Voter Registration Open Period: September 16 through October 6, 2020:
GRIC General Election/Amendments to the GRIC Constitution & Bylaws, November 3, 2020.

In order to change amendments to the Constitution, Article XVII states -
“Proposed amendments will be approved by a majority vote of the registered voters of the Community voting in an election called for the purpose by the Election Board, provided that at least thirty (30) percent of the registered voters vote in such election.”



P-MIP receives grant from USDA for canal project

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community was awarded a grant to fund a portion of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project by a federal government agency. P-MIP received a grant notification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$9,090,909, for the construction of a two-

year canal project on April 17.

According to a GRIC Communications & Public Affairs Office press release, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program, awarded the Community to help fund a portion of P-MIP's canal infrastructure.

"The work proposed under this RCPP program

will assist the Community in its efforts to address the effects of the on-going drought in the Lower Colorado River Basin through the regional Drought Contingency Plan," Dr. David DeJong P-MIP Director.

For the Community, the RCPP is focused on conserving Colorado River water stored in Lake Mead, reducing the probability of a shortage declaration by the Secretary of the Interi-

or.

DeJong said, "Improving canals will not only conserve water but result in better water measurement and water use efficiencies for tribal growers."

The grant allows the Community to proceed with the Canal 13 project, that will start in the late summer of 2021, with a projected completion date of 2023. The section of new canal will span 14.62 miles

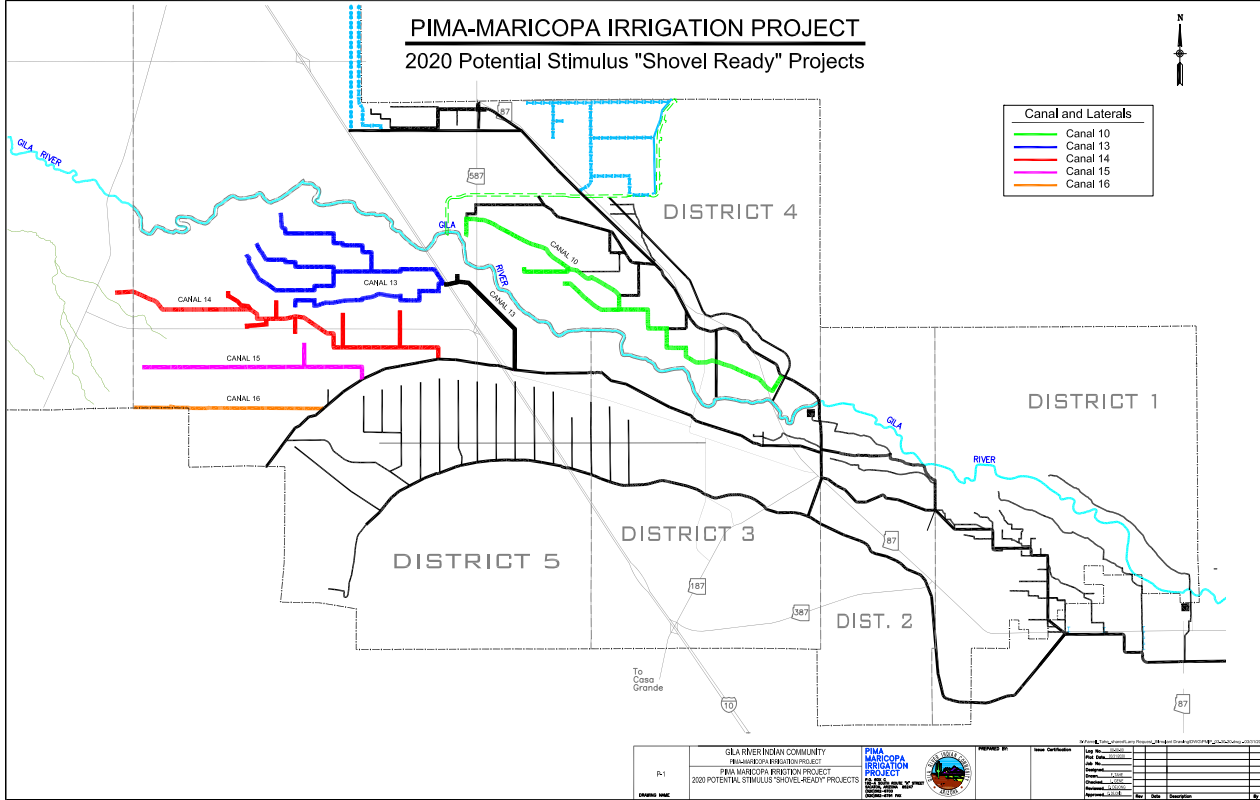
in length across District 5, in north Casa Blanca, just west of Interstate 10.

The Community is one of 48 conservation projects, that spans across 29 states, who were selected by the RCPP to receive the grant, which draws from a \$200 million pool of funds by the federal government.

Within the state of Arizona, there are a total of three separate projects in Arizona, that includes the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Arizona

Game and Fish Department and the Community, who were awarded the grant.

In line with the RCPP's goals, the grant will also protect and improve soil productivity and conserve water resources for a more sustainable agricultural development. The project will also be in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, and will address water quality degradation and associated soil quality degradation, that occurs due to upstream diversions.



Canal 13-5.6 upstream of Vahki Road. This too will be replaced with a 2' bottom concrete-lined ditch. Photo Courtesy Dr. David DeJong/P-MIP

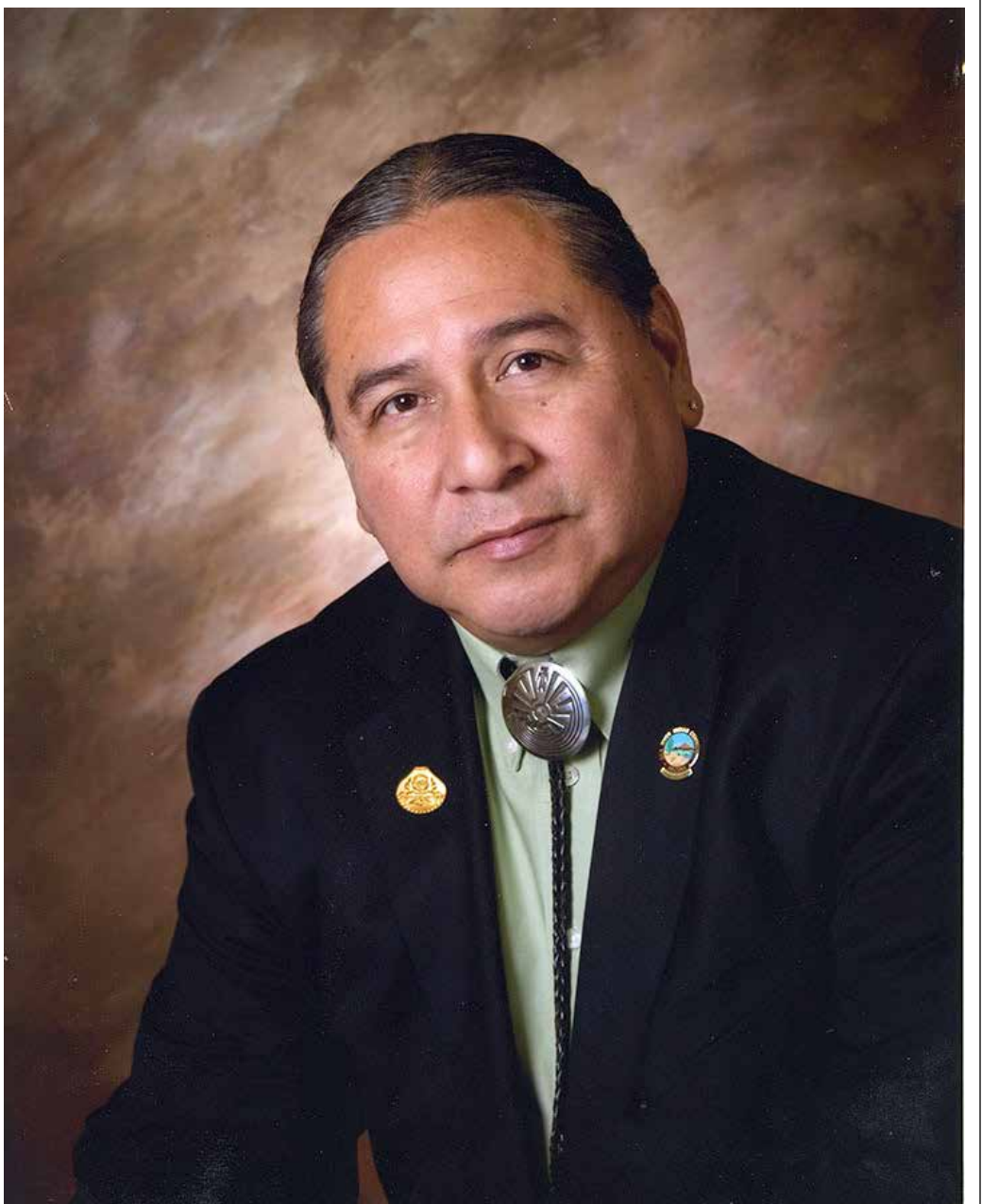
PAID ADVERTISEMENT

My Name is JOSEPH MANUEL, I am running for Chief Judge in the Special Election, Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 6:00AM-6:00PM in Districts 1-7. I am from D3 Sacaton Gu'u Ki' District. My maternal grandparents the late Frank & Isabel Johnson, my paternal grandparents the late Warren & Liza Manuel, & my parents the late Herman Manuel & Lorraine Johnson were all from Sacaton. I am a full blood Pima, an Elder, & I'm in my mid-sixties.

I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree, & a Master's in Business Administration. I retired from Gila River Indian Community 10 years ago, after 30 years of employment. I pride myself with 37 years of Sobriety. As Chief Judge I will manage the Court's effectively, sufficiently, & with Integrity. I believe Judges should remain impartial & not get involved in politics. They should live by Judge's Cannon's (Code of Conduct). My experience comes from being a Pro Tempore Judge here in the Community. Associate Judge in Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. And a Visiting Associate Judge in the Hualapai Tribe. Early on, I Advocated at various Indian Reservations, The Tohono O'Odham Nation; White Mountain Apache Tribe; San Carlos Indian Tribe; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Hualapai Tribe; Hopi Tribe; Ak-Chin Indian Tribe; & Fort McDowell Yavapai Apache Tribe. I am a member of the San Carlos Bar. I have been your Lieutenant Governor, D3 Councilman, & have been on various GRIC Boards such as 4 River Indian Legal Services; GRTI; GRICUA, WHPDA, the Law Enforcement Commission, & more. I have served as chairman of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association, & have been the Secretary for the Intertribal Council of Arizona. I am married & have been for 30 years. I have 4 boys. I am a Family man.

I have never been Impeached as a sitting Judge. I have never been suspended for actions unbecoming of a Judge. I will never bring disrespect to the Chief Judge position. You've elected & tried my opponent. He promised many positive changes in past elections. We have seen no changes. I call upon my Hajun in Districts 1-7, I need your support. With wise wisdom & direction from Our Creator, together we can set the example for Our generation, & generations to come. Masapo.

ELECT – "JOSEPH MANUEL" – CHIEF JUDGE
"A VOTE FOR JOSEPH, IS A VOTE FOR TRUE TRIBAL JUSTICE"



COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • April 15, 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, April 15, 2020, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:25 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Monica Antone

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, Delmar Jones, Pamela Johnson; D5-

Janice Stewart, Marlin Dixon, Franklin Pablo, Sr.,

Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles

Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4-Jennifer Allison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #2 AND RESOLUTION #5

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #3; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 AND #3 AND

NEW BUSINESS #2, #3 AND #5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE, SECOND AND DEFEATED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND

ADD NEW BUSINESS #8 COUNCIL CONCERNS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

REPORTS

1. Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley Sacaton/Komatke Branch Transition Plan Update

Presenters: Branch Board, Jason Jones

REPORT HEARD

2. Human Resources Adjudicator Process Report – March 2019- March 2020

Presenter: Michelle Barber

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley Gila River Branches 2nd Quarter Report

Presenters: Soyet Antone, Emiliano Morondos

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. COVID-19 Emergency Fund (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. IHS Funding for COVID-19 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

6. FY 2020 Budget Impact (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A ONE-HOUR LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT

1:15 P.M.]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving A Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Inter Tribal Council Of Arizona, Inc. And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Tribal Health Department To Receive Grant Funds Through The Good Health And Wellness In Indian Country Grant (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)

Presenter: Candalerian Preston

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. A Resolution Adding Six Million Dollars To The Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund Established By Resolution GR-042-20 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Thomas Murphy

APPROVED

>3. A Resolution Amending Resolution GR-044-20, The Interim Amendment To Section III Of The Gila River Indian Community's "Employee Policies And Procedures Reference Guide" By Revising The Section Entitled "Leave Of Absence For Coronavirus (COVID-19)" (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval with amendments and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Termination Of Per Capita Trust Accounts And Directing The Distribution Of Trust Assets To Certain Beneficiaries (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

APPROVED

>5. A Resolution Authorizing The Human Resources Department To Utilize The Arizona Department Of Public Safety's Noncriminal Justice Compliance Program For Fee-Based State And Federal Criminal History Checks For Employment Applicants (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Michelle Barber

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Remote Meeting Access

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE LAW OFFICE TO DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION GR-045-20

MOTION MADE AND SECOND COUNCIL PREFERENCES TO UTILIZE CISCO WEBEX VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZE THE MIS DEPARTMENT TO DEPLOY THE LICENSING

MOTION MADE AND SECOND AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS GO TO REMOTE MEETING ACCESS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Temporary Shutdown Update

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, IOPC

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Gila River Gaming Commission Response to GRGE Shutdown

Presenters: Duane Johns, Scott Sanderson

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION [GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 5:06 P.M.]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

*1. 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

MOTION MADE AND SECOND THE WORK SESSION BE HELD ON JUNE 12, 2020, 9AM

>2. Request from Tonto Apache Indian Nation to use GRIC State Shared Gaming documents as a template to develop their own (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Gila River Farms FY 19 Audit (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation to accept and placement on the consents agenda)

Presenter: Wesley Benally

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Gila River Farms FY 20 Budget (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval with additional material)

Presenter: Cletus Shirley

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

>5. GRICUA FY 19 Audited Financial Statements (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: John Lewis, Adam Cavin, Leonard Gold

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Directors Declaration of Three (3) Vacancies (Advertise for 60 days; subject to the code of conduct)

Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. COVID-19 Community Status

Presenters: Bruce Harvey, COVID-19 Task Force

ITEM FURTHER DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES

1. March 6, 2020 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:22 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

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