



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Gila River Indian Community distributes masks to members

Masks are another way GRIC is slowing the spread of the coronavirus

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Starting Friday, May 8, the Gila River Indian Community conducted a reusable cloth face mask distribution for Community households and urban members. Distribution of masks occurred throughout the Community to help slow the spread of COVID-19. This vital piece of PPE (personal protection equipment) comes at a critical time as businesses will open again and stay-at-home orders issued by GRIC Governor Stephen Roe Lewis and AZ Governor Doug Ducey expiring on May 15.

Governor Lewis said, "Cloth face coverings can slow the spread of COVID-19 in GRIC, and I want to thank those that are making today's cloth mask distri-

bution possible."

The day of the distribution Districts 1 through 7 received a surplus of masks based on each district's population size. Throughout the day, service center staff sorted and grouped bags of masks based on household size. And later that evening, families were able to receive their masks.

Urban members were also included in the distribution, and they were able to pick up masks at two locations in Phoenix and Casa Grande.

Throughout the nation, many establishments and public gathering areas are enforcing the use of face masks of patrons. So as establishments begin servicing the public after May 15, it is essential to keep the masks available when out for the sake of public safety.



Package of masks includes safety information for Gila River Indian Community members. Kyle Knox/GRIN

CONGRESSMAN TOM O'HALLERAN VISITS COVID-19 TEST SITE



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Rep. Tom O'Halleran at a testing site on May 9. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

Teaya Vicente
Gila River Hotels & Casinos

On May 9, Congressman Tom O'Halleran visited the Gila River Indian Community to see the Community's new testing site on the Reservation that is the result of a partnership between the Community and Steward Health Care Systems that took effect on Friday. Congressman O'Halle-

ran's advocacy in Congress made this testing and the Community's expansive health response to COVID-19 possible.

The testing site is one of three key components announced this week that are part of the Gila River Indian Community's comprehensive response to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to the partnership with Steward Health Care Systems, the Com-

munity also announced an agreement with Mayo Clinic – Phoenix to process up to 500 tests weekly for the Community's most vulnerable populations including elders, dialysis patients, and Community members with underlying conditions.

The third announcement this week was the deployment of Gila River Health Care's new Mobile Hospital Unit to expand

inpatient treatment space for patients with COVID-19. The Mobile Unit brings the Community's inpatient capacity to a total of 75 beds system-wide. The increased capacity is necessary because the Gila River Health Care system provides treatment for its 22,000 members as well as up to 100,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives annually from other tribes in Arizona and the Phoenix metropolitan area.

These testing agreements complement the testing the Community is able to perform with its Abbott Analyzer, a rapid test that provides results in a matter of minutes. This testing is used for patients presenting to Gila River Health Care with COVID-19 symptoms, first responders and front-line health care workers. The Abbott Analyzer was acquired after Congressman O'Halleran advocated to have testing equipment made available to tribal governments when supplies and equipment were in limited supply.

The testing site Congressman O'Halleran visited is the latest prong in the Community's testing plan which is testing of essential government employees and employees of the tribal businesses which will be ongoing prior to,

and after, those businesses open, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of employees. The agreement with Steward will allow up to 800 tests to be performed daily.

Congressman O'Halleran visited the Community to see how the funding that he strongly advocated for in coronavirus-relief legislation was being put to use in tribal communities. Congressman O'Halleran tirelessly advocated for increased healthcare funding in the CARES Act that would help tribal governments combat this unprecedented pandemic. His efforts ultimately led to over \$1 billion in funding for tribal communities in Arizona and across the United States.

Governor Lewis remarked during the visit that "Congressman O'Halleran's tireless advocacy on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community and all tribes in Arizona have enabled the Community to establish a comprehensive plan to test, trace and treat any cases of COVID-19 in the Community. With lives at stake, it is reassuring to know that Congressman O'Halleran continues to use his voice in Congress to make sure tribal governments have the resources they need

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The Lifeline Program

The Lifeline Program is a federal program that covers basic phone service, this discount provides a discount of \$24.50 a month to qualifying participants. There are many ways to qualify for the Lifeline Program either through a Government program, Tribal specific program or through income guidelines.

New service with GRTI also means you qualify for Link-Up. Link-up pays for \$75 of the GRTI installation fee, the Link-Up discount can only be used once per customer.

1. Government Program

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs

2. Tribal Specific Programs

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Tribal Head Start (Only households that meet the income qualifying standard)

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*One per household.

3. Income Guidelines

Family Size	Annual Income
1	\$17,226
2	\$23,274
3	\$29,322
4	\$35,370

For each additional person in the home add \$6,048 to income eligibility requirements.



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Gila River Hotels & Casinos open after closure

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

While the rest of the state and Community are set to reopen, Gila River Hotels & Casinos will also be reopening their doors on Friday, May 15. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought on many changes and adjustments to prevent the spread and to stay safe and healthy. During the eight-week closure Gila River Hotels & Casino has made some of those changes for the safety of their guest and employees.

Gila River Hotels & Casinos has tested all their employees for COVID-19 before returning and all three casinos have been completely deep cleaned and sanitized. Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva will partially reopen their doors for the public with some new changes to maximize floor space and revenue for the Gila River Indian Community. "We made use of our casino floors and we actually expanded our gaming and slot machines in areas that they had never been into before," said Kenneth Manuel, CEO of Gila River Hotels & Casinos. Many slot machines have been moved off the main casino floor and moved into areas like poker rooms and bingo hall areas.



Gila River Hotel & Casinos added plexiglass barriers for team members and patrons for the reopening. Emma Hughes/GRIN

"Cleaning ambassadors" will now be designated to routinely clean and sanitize slot machines and table games after each guest once they are done, utilizing technology employees will be notified once a guest leaves and will be able to clean before another arrives. Plexiglass has been placed in areas of the casino floors such as cashier's cage, in between slot machines, and at table games for

the safety of guests and employees. "We want to make sure our guests feel safe and secure while they're here," said Manuel. These safety measures are as recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

Gila River Indian Community members are invited to the re-opening at either one of the three casinos, Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte, and Vee Quiva on

Friday, May 15 at 10 a.m. Community members will need to be prepared to show their GRIC ID.

The general public is welcomed to join at noon. Safety plans have been developed for the health and wellness of guests during the reopening.

Hotels will remain closed but are slated to open on June 15.



Sign directs casino team members for testing. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

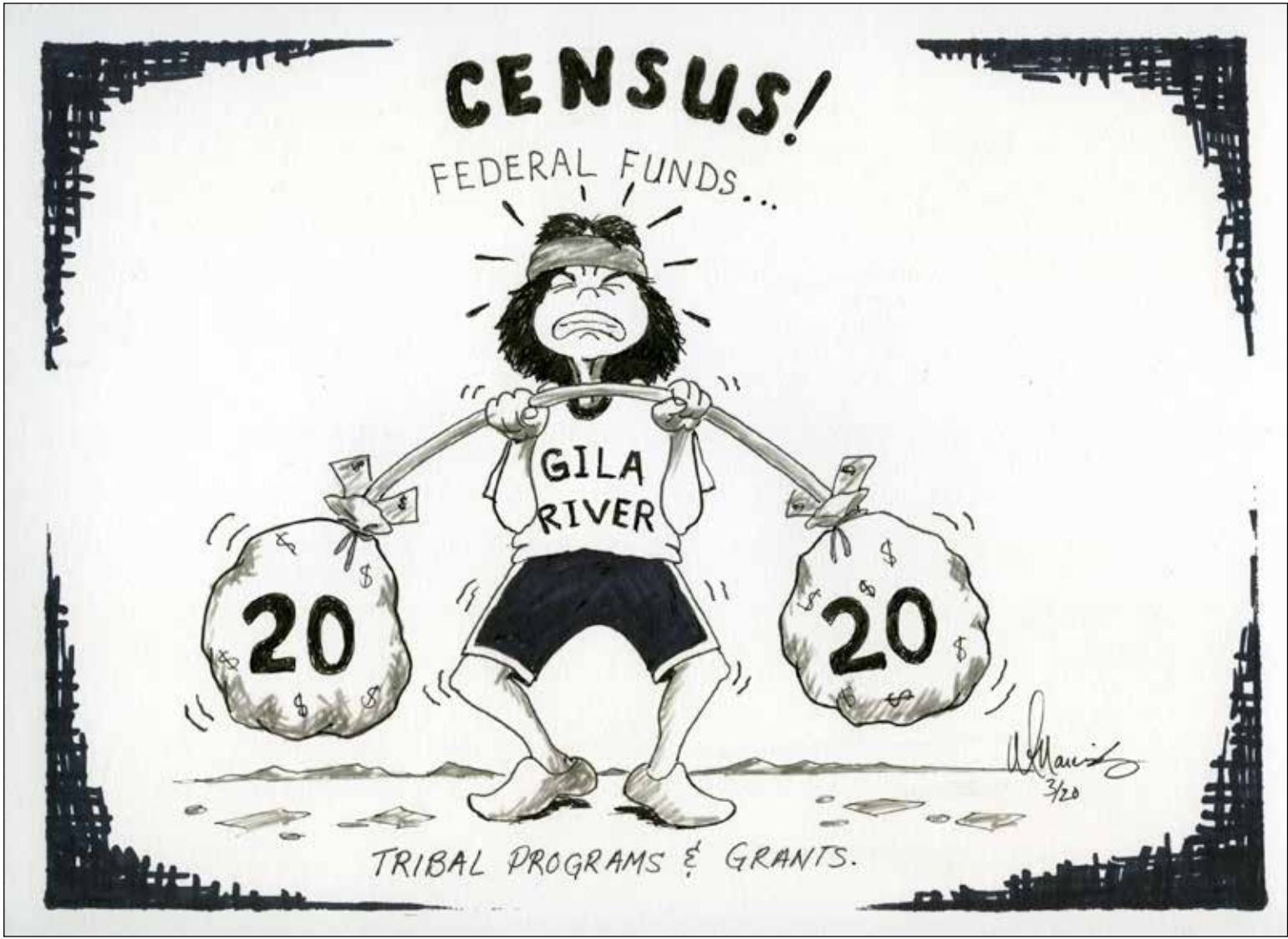
FROM THE FRONT PAGE

during this unprecedented crisis." During the visit Congressman O'Halleran stated that he "was very impressed with level of testing that is occurring at the Gila River Indian Community. It is this gold standard of testing that will lead Arizona and the Country out of this pandemic."

Congressman O'Halleran and Governor Lewis both wore personal protective equipment

during the visit and practiced social distancing to highlight the need to practice COVID-19 safety measures – especially while testing for the virus.

Congressman O'Halleran will continue his advocacy as congress begins to consider the next coronavirus-relief effort to provide health and economic relief to the citizens, business owners and front-line workers in Arizona.



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department Incident Log

Certain reports may not be available or are currently under investigation which GRPD holds the right to restrict public release.

April 26 – May 02, 2020

Calls for services this week: 793 Arrest made: 33 District One- (Blackwater)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Two – (Sacaton Flats)

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT – 200428-01976 Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a domestic dispute. Investigation revealed the suspect assaulted the victim by punching, kicking and strangling before family members arrived on scene to intervene. The victim was transported to an area hospital for further medical treatment. The suspect was detained and taken into custody. Photos were taken and impounded into evidence.

Status: Suspect was booked into jail

District Three- (Sacaton)

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT – 200426-01947 Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a subject with a weapon. Upon officer arrival contact was made with the victim, who identified the suspect to officers. Stating that the suspect had a knife and made stabbing motions

towards the victim making contact with their body; the victim was in fear for their life and called police. The suspect left on foot and was later located; where they were taken into custody and booked into jail. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries.

Status: Suspect was booked into jail

THEFT – 200430-02000 Officers were dispatched in reference to a theft of a guitar. The officer met with the victim who stated that after playing music over the intercom at the Caring House, their acoustic guitar was taken. There is no known suspect at this time and video surveillance will be reviewed to assist in identifying the suspect at a later date.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification

THEFT– 200501-02012 Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to three subjects on a gator that hit the homeowners fence, causing damage. The gator was impounded into the jail evidence yard for safekeeping until an employee could be contacted. The suspects fled on foot and were not located. Video surveillance will be reviewed to assist in identifying the suspect.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification

District Four- Stotonic Area –

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

Lone Butte Area NO INCIDENTS

INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Five- (Casa Blanca)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Six – (Komatke)

BURGLARY – 200501-02018 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to the a theft. Investigation revealed that the catalytic converter was taken from a bus and a truck belonging to GRIC. A hammer that was taken located at the scene and booked into evidence. Video surveillance will be reviewed to assist in identifying the suspect.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification

BURGLARY – 200428-01974 The victim called dispatch to report a theft of a Samsung tablet. The victim arrived home and noticed a window was broken and the tablet missing. The victim believed the suspect was a person that was evicted from the residence recently but could not say if it was the person or not. Attempts were made to locate the suspect; and was not located at the time of the investigation.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification

THEFT– 200429-01983 Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a delayed reporting of theft. The victim stated that the suspect was involved in a verbal altercation with the victim; grabbed the phone and left

through a bedroom window in an unknown direction. The suspect was not located; charges will be forwarded to law office for review.

Status: Charges forwarded

District Seven – (Maticopa)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

Incident Log

May 03 – 09, 2020

Calls for services this week: 868, Arrest made: 31

District One- (Blackwater)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Two – (Sacaton Flats)

ROBBERY – 200507-02151 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to the suspect reporting a vehicle being taken with force. The victim was able to identify the suspects that assaulted them and then took the vehicle. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen. The suspect was later arrested and taken into custody.

Status: Suspect was booked into jail

AUTO THEFT – 200507-02141 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to a stolen vehicle. The victim stated the vehicle was taken a few days ago and was told that the vehicle was in the area; the vehicle was not located after looking in the immediate area. A stolen affidavit was filled out and the vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen.

Status:

District Three- (Sacaton)

BURGLARY – 200505-02097 Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a burglary. Investigation revealed the three suspects entered the home and took an xbox and some shoes when the victim came into contact with the subjects and began to physically fight. The suspects left on foot in an unknown direction and were not located after officers conducted a search in the surrounding area. Latent prints were lifted and entered into evidence.

Status: Open Investigation

BURGLARY – 200504-02070 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to break in. Investigation revealed the suspects forced entry into the residence causing extensive damage to the door and door frame. Damages were done through-out the residence; they were photographed and evidence was taken from the residence. There are no suspects at this time.

Status: Open Investigation

SEXUAL ASSAULT– 200505-02103 Officers were dispatched in reference to a delayed reporting of sexual assault. The victim disclosed information regarding the suspect who inappropriately touched the victim several times. The case is still under investigation.

Status: Open Investigation

District Four- Stotonic Area –

THEFT – 200507-02136 Officer were on scene for a different matter when the reporting party notified officers they wished to make a theft report. Investigation revealed a GPS monitor was taken from the site located on Saint Rd. The equipment was entered into NCIC as stolen.

Status:

BURGLARY – 200505-02087 Officers were dispatched to the business in reference to a burglary. Investigation revealed the suspect threw a rock into the front door of the business causing the glass to shatter. The suspect took multiple items from the store while causing damages inside. The suspect left in an unknown direction. Video surveillance will be under review to assist in identifying the suspect.

Status: Open Investigation

Lone Butte Area NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Five- (Casa Blanca)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME

District Six – (Komatke)

THEFT– 200504-02071 Officers were dispatched to the area in reference to two stolen vehicles. The victim stated the two vehicles were left at a residence and have since been gone for an unknown amount of time. The homeowner did not know the whereabouts of both vehicles; stolen affidavit was filled out for both vehicles and entered into NCIC.

Status:

THEFT– 200505-02100 Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to theft of a license plate. The victim reported that the license plate was on their vehicle the previous day as they had been repairing the vehicle. It was unknown who would have taken the license plate; there are no suspects at this time. The license plate was entered into NCIC as stolen.

Status: Closed Pending Suspect Identification

THEFT– 200508-02156 Officers were dispatched in reference to a stolen bike. The victim stated the bike was taken from the back of their truck; there were no known suspect. The bike was posted on the Police Departments website and was recovered the next day. The victim did not wish to press charges since the bike was returned.

Status: Closed

District Seven – (Maticopa)

NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIMES

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Telling Time in O’otham

Learning numbers and how to count in O’otham is one of the first lessons that are taught to learners, whether they’re learning at home or in school. Most people quickly learn how to recite the numbers from one to ten in O’otham (hemako, go:k, vaik, gi’ik, hethasp, chu:thp, vevkam, gi’igik, hemuchkam, vesthma:m) but don’t realize how much of an opportunity they have to use those numbers in everyday life. Knowing how to say the numbers in O’otham is very important as we use numbers everywhere. We use numbers when we count items or measure things around us. We also use numbers to keep track of the passing of time, whether it is the day, month, or year. Every time we use numbers we have the opportunity to use the knowledge of our own O’otham ñeo’ok instead of

the English numbers we’ve grown accustomed to. One area where we can use O’otham numbers in our daily lives is with telling the time. A common question that is often asked by people of all ages is “What time is it?” Now, the hourly concept of time that we presently use is relatively new for O’otham and is based on the European idea of the day divided into 24 hours. This idea was brought to our lands by Spanish and Mexican visitors starting in the late 17th Century. Prior to this date, the traditional concept of the day (thash) was more loosely divided into a few periods that corresponded primarily to morning (sial-ig) afternoon (tha:m juk), evening (huduñig) and night (chu:g). The Spanish influence on our Community can be heard in the words that we now use to tell

time. In O’otham we divide the day (thash) into hours, which in O’otham are called o:la a word that was borrowed from the Spanish word hora ‘hour.’ Hours are divided into minutes which are called minu:thi which is another borrowing from the Spanish word minuto. There are a number of different ways in O’otham to ask the question “What time is it?” The easiest way is by using the question phrase Sha:chuđ o:la?, which literally translates as “What hour is it?” Another way of asking the same question is by saying “He’ekia o ‘i him? which literally asks “How many (hours) are going (by)?” You might sometimes hear people say the same phrase as “He’ekia ‘o vai him?” All of these questions are different ways of asking the same thing and are understood by speakers. The

Sha:chuđ o:la?/He’ekia ‘o ‘i him? Match the O’otham time with its Clock Face!

Hethasp minu:thi ‘i ba’ivch heg go:k o:la

Chu:thp o:la

Hethasp minu:thi am vi’is heg go:k o:la

Gamai-go:k eda hugkam o:la

Vesthma:m minu:thi ‘i ba’ivch heg vevkam o:la

Hemako eda hugkam o:la

Gi’ik o:la

Vesthma:m minu:thi am vi’is heg gi’igik o:la



difference on which form a speaker will actually use in a conversation can be based on his or her preference or on their dialect and it is important to pay attention and ask people in your village how they would ask the question “What time is it?”

Replying to the questions is relatively simple and uses your knowledge of numbers. For example, if you wanted to say that it’s one o’clock you can reply to one of the questions above with “hemako o:la”, which literally says “one hour” or “one o’clock”. If you wanted to be a little more proper in your responses you can also say “Tho hemako o:la” meaning “it is one o’clock.” And if you wanted to emphasize that the hour has reached one you can use the phrase “E-ai ath heg _____” which is a way of saying that the clock has reached a certain point of the day. To complete this example, you would use E-ai ‘ath heg hemako o:la, meaning the time has reached one o’clock in the day.

Now let’s say the time has reached the half hour

mark. In order to express the half-hour of the clock you use the phrase eda hugkam, which means half past or in the middle. For example, to say it is 10:30 you can say “Tho vesthma:am eda hugkam o:la” which literally says it’s the middle hour past ten. To say it is 3:30 you would say “Tho vaik eda hugkam o:la.” And in the same manner, to say it is 9:30 you would say “Tho hemuchkam eda hugkam o:la.”

Now if you want to say it’s anytime in between the half hour and hour you use one of two phrases that mean either it is a number of minutes past the hour or a number of minutes leading up to the next hour. In O’otham these phrases are “i ba’ivch” which means past (the hour) and “am wui” which means what’s left (until the next hour). For example, if you wanted to say that the time is 8:05 you would say “Tho hethasp minu:thi ‘i ba’ivch heg gi’igik o:la” or it’s five minutes past eight o’clock. In a similar way if you wanted to say the time is 8:07 you can say “Tho vevkam minu:thi

‘i ba’ivch heg gi’igik o:la.” But on the other hand if the time was 7:55 you would have to think of how many minutes there are left until the next hour. In this case there are five minutes left until the hour hits eight so you would say in O’otham “Tho hethasp minu:thi am vi’is heg gi’igik o:la” or it’s five minutes until eight. Similarly, if the time was 7:53 you would say there’s seven minutes (left) until eight o’clock or “Tho vevkam minu:thi am vi’is heg gi’igik o:la”.

Telling time in O’otham takes practice and a little time to get used to the system. But it is a good way to bring more O’otham into your daily life and utilize your knowledge of numbers. We encourage you to start asking each other “Sha:chuđ o:la?/He’ekia ‘o ‘i him?” and figuring out how to say the time using O’otham.

This month’s word match will give some good practice on how to say the time in O’otham.



“ HEROES - HEAVEN SENT ”
TO ALL OUR FIRST RESPONDERS
THANK YOU !

Palmer Miller III, Director of Veterans & Family Services Office, paid tribute to first responders and health care professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic with his painting titled “Heroes-Heaven Sent.”
“I have done six (paintings) so far, my first ‘Boots of the Ground,’ was done in 2015,” said Miller. He said the paintings cover subjects related to military veterans, active duty police, hotshots and military veteran bikers. He said the painting took two months to complete and was done during his spare time at home. Courtesy of Palmer Miller III

Obituary for Beverly Throssell



Beverly Mae Throssell, 81, of Sacaton, Arizona passed away on May 8, 2020. She was born on March 14, 1939 in Sells, Arizona to Isadore Manuel and Gertrude Cawker. Beverly graduated in 1957 with her class from Pueblo High School in Tucson, Arizona. She attended the University of Arizona to achieve her goals of becoming a public school teacher or nurse but later attended Lamson Business College in Tucson. Beverly was employed under the American Indian relocation program as a telephone switch board operator in Los Angeles, CA. She was employed at San Xavier Indian Health Service Clinic located in San Xavier Tucson. Beverly’s last employment was with IBM in

Tucson. South Tucson is where Beverly called home. She was a very creative person who enjoyed sewing, beading and making wire baskets. Beverly enjoyed reading more than anything. She will be dearly missed. Beverly is survived by her sons: Kevin Throssell of Mayetta Kansas and Eric J. Throssell of Newfields, Arizona; her siblings: Kenneth E. Manuel Sr. of Chandler, Arizona and Barbara Channa of Tucson, Arizona; seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, her sister: Velma Pablo, her two sons: Stacy D. Throssell and Jayson Throssell.

UNITY names two youth representing GRIC for 25 under 25 award

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On May 1, United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) announced Yasmine Quiroz and Bianca Hernandez among the recipients of this year's "25 Under 25 Award," recognizing the achievements and work of 25 youth from across the country under 25-years-of-age. Both have unique and exciting ideas that showcase the innovation and passion they have for the Gila River Indian Community.

Usually, UNITY honors all 25 awardees at the annual UNITY Conference, however, due to COVID-19, this year's in-person conference has been canceled. There are plans for everyone to receive recognition via the proposed virtual conference planned for later this year. This year is the fourth cohort of award recipients that UNITY awards every two years.

Beginning in 2014, the award recognizes the achievements of young leaders who "exemplify

UNITY's core mission and exudes living a balanced life developing their spiritual, mental, physical, and social well-being."

Per the UNITY press release UNITY Executive Director Mary Kim Titla said, "There was an amazing response from outstanding youth applicants across the nation. A big congrats to the honorees and we wish nothing but the best to all nominees."

As part of the application, Quiroz and Hernandez had to highlight the work and projects they've conducted or seen as improvements for the Gila River Indian Community.

Yasmine Quiroz

Yasmine Quiroz, District 1, is currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Agricultural Management with a minor in Administration at the University of Arizona. Before that, she received her Associate of Art in Agriculture from Central Arizona College.

"I was nominated by my Community for this award because they saw something in me, so I'm thankful and honored to have been awarded," said Quiroz.

Quiroz's project grew from her personal experiences studying agriculture while bridging the resources she has made with the U of A. She submitted a proposal for a 5-year plan to complete a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, op-

portunities, and threats) analysis in all of their current agriculture sites, organizational structure, and management at Gila River Farms. The SWOT analysis would assist in creating strategic decisions for a site to maximize productivity.

As a student at U of A, she also has made time for extracurricular activities. She joined Sigma Alpha, Alpha Rho Chapter, which is a professional agriculture sorority that promotes women pursuing careers in agriculture. She is also a part of the University of Arizona's Livestock Program and the Intertribal Agriculture Council.

After graduating from U of A, Quiroz has plans to return to the Community and one day starting a 4-H program for GRIC youth.

Bianca Hernandez

Bianca Hernandez, District 3, is a recent college graduate that completed her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Finance from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

"I felt gratitude and the first people I wanted to share it with was my mother and grandmother. These women raised me into the woman I am today, and I have them to thank for that," said Hernandez about the award.

She submitted a project that provides financial literacy to GRIC youth



Bianca Hernandez was honored by UNITY thanks to her academic success and financial literacy project for GRIC youth.
Photo Courtesy of Bianca Hernandez

in budgets and personal finances such as credit scores, savings/retirement, credit cards, and loans. She felt that this knowledge is vital for GRIC youth who will receive a large sum of money via per capita. She said that "it is essential our children be educated on financial literacy to make cognitive decisions when receiving this benefit."

Hernandez's time in college was filled with many significant experiences. Not only did she attend school outside of Arizona, but she also had the chance to study abroad in France in 2018. She also joined

Alpha Pi Omega, which is the first and largest Native American sorority, where she served numerous positions, including president for her chapter.

Now looking ahead, she is set to return to the Community and has accepted a full-time position at Gila River Sand & Gravel as a staff accountant. Lastly, she will continue her education, pursuing an online Master of Business Administration at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.



Yasmine Quiroz studies Agricultural Management at the University of Arizona and is active in school activities.
Photo Courtesy of Yasmine Quiroz

Gila River Fire Department and BIA battle Lone Butte Fire

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Fire Department and Bureau of Indian Affairs Wildland Fire crews worked to put out a 50-acre vegetation fire on May 5.

According to information provided by Justin Wedo, BIA Pima Agency Supervisory Forestry Technician, GRFD and BIA fire crews were dispatched to a Type 4 fire in the Lone Butte area of District 4. The unified command between BIA and GRFD resources

were on scene to fight the fire, which threatened nearby structures.

When scale of the blaze proved to be unsafe for responding crews, the Type 4 Incident Commander made the call to bring in a DC-10 air tanker to put fire retardant to minimize the spread of the flames.

Wedo said, BIA fire crews established a parameter around the fire where needed, while minimizing risk to personnel. GRFD resources assessed and mitigated any remaining interior smokes, as it pertained

to structures and to hazardous materials located in the area such as tires, rail road ties and other fuels.

Currently, the Lone Butte Fire remains under investigation, with no conclusive cause of the fires. BIA Wildland Fire, asks to report suspicious persons or vehicles, keep a 100-foot defensible area around structures, maintain origin and flag it off and do not burn on 'no burn days' which is high risk of fires or red flag warnings.



A DC-10 air tanker was used to fight the Lone Butte Fire.
Photo Courtesy of Justin Wedo



View from the side of the DC-10 air tanker. Photo Courtesy of Justin Wedo

ASU master's graduate finds her calling in social work

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community member recently completed her graduate studies at Arizona State University.

Cassandra Peña completed her Masters of Social Work in Planning, Administration and Community Practice from the ASU School of Social Work, Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions this spring semester.

"I grew up mostly in Tempe, but my family is from District 6, Komatke," said Peña. She said her grandparents are Kenneth Sneed and Emily Adams Sneed, her parents are Del-la Peña and Jamie Lopez.

Peña's list of accomplishments includes a Bachelors of Social Work from ASU and working within Phoenix urban Indian assistance and health centers during her master's program.

"I dropped out of high school when I was 17, I was a teen mom," said Peña. After a series of what she called, "dead end" jobs, Peña decided to go back to school. At 25-years-old, she received her GED as a mother of three. Peña knew going to college would set a good example for her son and two daughters. "I have to do this for me, for my kids and my family. If I don't make these sacrifices, who's going to do it for me?"

Her studies reflected her desire to help people.

"The life I had wasn't what I envisioned for myself, you can say I've been through some hardships, so I wanted to do something to help those in places I have been, what young people face," said Peña.

Peña enrolled in the SSW at ASU, where she received a Bachelor's of Social Work last May. She just completed an accelerated MSW program this May. "There's a misconception with social work, such as we take kids, we work with CPS, when in fact we play many roles, like policy, community work," said Peña.

She understands young people who have faced challenges in their lives and offered this advice: "You go through certain things in life, doesn't mean you're exempt from succeeding."

In addition to her studies, Peña had contributed towards the ASU SSW strategic plan and Native American Connections Homepage Program for homeless youth, according to Christopher Sharpe, SSW Office of American

Indian Projects Director & Clinical Assistant Professor.

"I've been exposed to program planning and development, making sure they are a right fit for the community," said Peña. She said that skill set can be brought to the Community to enhance services for GRIC members.

She said it is humbling to apply her knowledge from the classroom to her work with Native Americans.

"I love learning, and I've given myself a goal to go back to school, I know there's more I can learn," said Peña.

She also has experience working with Native youth in her undergraduate program with Native

American Connections. "They're such a great organization, there is so much I have learned from their leadership, on how to address homelessness," said Peña.

Peña said all college graduation ceremonies are virtual this semester due to the restrictions on public gatherings related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"That's how I'll be celebrating for now, but because of the situation, all May graduates have been invited to walk in December."

Currently, Peña is interning with the Indian Health Services Integrated Behavioral Health office in the Valley, where she hopes to continue working in the future.



Cassandra Peña in District 6 near her grandfather's land. Photo courtesy of Cassandra Peña

Pass the Stole

Attention Gila River Graduates!

The Tribal Education Department in collaboration with the Executive Office are making a video to feature Gila River high school and college graduates! If you are a 2020 graduate and would like to participate, just follow these steps:

- Have someone film you on a phone (vertically).
- First clip will be of you in comfortable clothes just relaxing.
- Cover the camera with your cap/stole/school swag item. This is to add a cool transition to the next clip.
- Next segment, is the close up of your item slowing zooming out to feature you dressed in your grad wear or traditional attire. Be creative!
- Send your videos to: Reuben.Ringlero@gric.nsn.us and it will be submitted for a GRIC Grad compilation video.

Please include in your email submission:

1. Video in vertical format
2. Your name (first and last)
3. High School or College graduating from
4. Degree type with major/program
5. GRIC District affiliation (optional)

No longer than 10 seconds!
Remember have your phone be filming vertically, be unique, be creative!

Accepting submissions now!
Deadline: June 1, 2020

Netflix documentary features Michelle Obama at the Huhugam Heritage Center in 2019

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

Former first lady Michelle Obama's historic visit to the Gila River Indian Community is featured in the new Netflix film "Becoming." Mrs. Obama was on a 34-city tour promoting her memoir of the same name when she surprised youth from GRIC for a roundtable discussion at the Huhugam Heritage Center in February of 2019. The documentary captures the former first lady engaging GRIC youth who were joined by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

On Saturday May 9, the Community participated in the Global Twitter Watch Party for "Becoming," which included a conversation with the hashtags #BecomingGRIC #Becoming, #WatchBecoming, #MichelleObama, #BecomingNetflix, and #IAMBecoming.

"As soon as Michelle Obama entered the doorway, the faces of our youth



Michelle Obama joins GRIC youth during a 2019 roundtable discussion which is captured in the Netflix film "Becoming." Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

went from shocked to excitement in a split second. One of our youth said after, 'She talked to us like she was our Mother. She wanted to share with us her life lessons,'" said Gov. Lewis. The movie shows an

intimate look at the first lady and the segment at the Huhugam begins with her walking in on the unsuspecting students.

Charisma Quiroz, from District 1, was one of the students who sat

with the former first lady and thanks to the movie, relived the moment when Michelle Obama walked in the room.

"I remember seeing her walk in being so speechless and overjoyed

to have Michelle Obama seated next to me in the meeting," Quiroz said.

The visit made headlines across the Valley in addition to Mrs. Obama's tour-stop later that evening.

"Michelle Obama told our youth that they will need to harness this strength and courage to be leaders for their own families and Community."

-Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

"Michelle Obama told our youth that they will need to harness this strength and courage to be leaders for their own families and Community," said Gov. Lewis.

Quiroz called the movie "empowering," and said the "documentary allows so many viewers to see different ethnic powerful women" on the screen.

The youth all received a signed copy of the book at the meeting and Quiroz said she found a personal connection to Mrs. Obama's story calling it a "must buy," book to read.

The film is currently in Netflix's Top 10 and is described as "Michelle Obama in an intimate documentary looking at her life, hopes and connection with others," during her book tour.

The film is one hour and 29 minutes, and Mrs. Obama's portion in GRIC comes on at the one hour and eight-minute mark.

Local First Arizona will highlight GRIC's Nutrition Coalition

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Local First Arizona Foundation, an organization that works with diverse economies and programs in the state of Arizona, will recognize the Gila River Indian Community's Nutrition Coalition in a future publication.

"We wanted to highlight sustainable economies across the state, while capturing what's going on in Indigenous foods," said Samantha Zah, with the City of Tempe Office of Sus-

tainability. During a Webex meeting, she talked with members of the GRIC Nutrition Coalition about their participation.

"We are proposing to create a 'Yearbook,' that would highlight the work of leaders in Indigenous food ways in Arizona, that includes perspectives from those in coalitions," said Zah.

The Indigenous Foodways 'yearbook' will showcase Indigenous foods and the role they play in the Community and their benefits.

"What made [this] coalition stand out to me was, [it] actively encourages Community members to participate in activities, like gardening," said Laverne Jackson, a retired early education teacher and gardener from District 6. She said the rise of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and recent stay-at-home orders has partly influenced Community members to start gardening.

According to their website, Local First Arizona says they "support food producers to increase

connectivity between Arizona's farms and its residents."

"The Nutrition Coalition started out to get a better picture how the Community was regarding health and wellness," said Nicole Watson, Community Health Nutrition, Nutritionist. She said, the coalition develops healthy activities and emphasizes traditional foods that reflect the Community.

"What was so different about the group, was the vibrancy and how we as 'O'otham' were able

to showcase our different foods," said James Sundust, Community member from District 6. Sundust aspires to be a culinary chef and had attended school in St. Helena, Calif., north of San Francisco.

"When I use the word 'O'otham,' it's used to signify the 'People,' who do amazing work in this group, including the strong Native women leaders, who work in or for our Community," said Sundust.

LaVerne said the coalition does a good job incorporating traditional

Akimel O'otham foods into their program. "[This] coalition is important, because we keep [those] traditions going, keep [it] alive in our Community," said LaVerne.

Watson said, while there is still room to grow, the coalition has targeted many goals including how to increase access to healthy foods, the promotion of foods and physical activities.

"As a collective, [we] will have to re-visit the goals, once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted."



CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL
FACE (Family and Children Education)
is recruiting for the
2020-2021 School Year

Center-based Services

- Preschool ages 3-4years of age
 - **Must be potty trained**
- **Must be accompanied by one or both parents**
- GED, High School, or college online classes are offered
- Monday Thru Friday, 7:30am to 2:30pm

Home-based Services

- Prenatal thru 3 years of age
- Home visits once a week 1-2 hrs. (school readiness lessons)
- Once a month "Family Circle" (parental information on development, physical, or essential requirements they may need)
- 3-year-old children will automatically transition into FACE Preschool (accompanied by parent or guardian)

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU IN OUR PROGRAM!

Inquire at:
(Current office hours Mondays & Wednesdays 7:30a-4:00p)
Phone-520-315-3489, 3455 W. Casa Blanca Rd.
Kim Franklin, Principal/Coordinator
Email: kfranklin@cbcshools.com

Face Staff Pearlene Wilson, Adult Education
Pamela Ahmsaty, Early Childhood Teacher
Harrietta Boy, Early Childhood Co-Teacher
Elizabeth Young, Parent Educator

CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL
FACE SUMMER SCHOOL (Totally Virtual)
Currently holding open enrollment
For the 2020-2021 School Year

Center based Services

- Preschool ages 3-4years of age
- **Must be potty trained**
- **Must be accompanied by one or both parents.**
- GED, High School, or college online classes are offered.
- Monday Thru Friday, 7:30am to 2:30pm

Home based Services

- Prenatal thru 3 years of age
- Home visits once a week 1-2 hrs. (school readiness lessons)
- Once a month "Family Circle" (parental information on development, physical, or essential requirements they may need)
- 3 year old children will automatically transition into FACE Preschool (accompanied by parent or guardian)

COME JOIN THE FACE PROGRAM!
WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!!

Contact Information
Phone- 520-315-3489, 3455 W. Casa Blanca Rd.
Kim Franklin, Principal/Coordinator
Pearlene Wilson, Adult Education
Pamela Ahmsaty, Early Childhood Teacher
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Elizabeth Young, Parent Educator



GRIC and other tribes continue to adjust during coronavirus outbreak

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

As the state reopens, many of the local tribes have been adjusting to the many changes and are responding to the needs of their own members and community based on many factors.

The Gila River Indian Community has been working diligently to keep the Community safe and preventing the spread of COVID-19 and will begin a phased reopening of tribal businesses and enterprises along with testing for essential employees. "Since the very first days of the pandemic we have pursued an aggressive testing plan that is focused on testing, tracing, and treating cases of COVID-19 in the Community," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in a video update on May 12. He stated that inpatient capacity has

been increased throughout the Gila River Health Care system.

The Navajo Nation has been considered a hotspot for COVID-19. As of May 13, there are now 3,392 positive cases for the virus with many who have recovered or are in the process of recovering, according to a press release from the Navajo Nation. Their 57-hour weekend lockdown continues to be in effect but will now have slightly stricter measures. "With some states starting to reopen, it's giving people the impression that it's okay to go out into public, but it's not safe yet," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez in a press release.

Tohono O'odham Nation released more information on their number of cases. As of May 8, there were 39 positive cases reported. Their stay at home order and shutdown remains in ef-



A station at the Governance Center in Sacaton where testing was taking place for GRIC employees. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

fect until June 4 but advises their members to continue to take precautions with physical distancing and limiting

travel for essential purposes only. Casino operations have not yet resumed.

The Salt River Pi-

ma-Maricopa Indian Community has now reported 5 positive cases among their members as of May 12.

They are also urging members to practice personal safety measures.

President re-signs Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaska Natives proclamation

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

On Tuesday, May 5, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis represented the Gila River Indian Community at a "Native American Roundtable" hosted by President Donald J. Trump, who traveled to Arizona to visit a Honeywell facili-

ty. Vice-Chairman Myron Lizer of the Navajo Nation, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, and Senator Martha McSally were also in attendance at the roundtable.

During the roundtable, Trump re-signed a proclamation declaring May 5 as "Missing and Murdered American In-

dians and Alaska Natives Awareness Day, 2020." The proclamation brings awareness to the crisis, highlights federal funding and programs, and creation of Operation Lady Justice, a multi-agency taskforce created to coordinate the federal response on missing and murdered Native Americans and Alaska Na-

tives. Last year, the Gila River Indian Community hosted the first Department of Interior listening session on safe communities which led to the creation of the Operation Lady Justice Taskforce.

Also during the roundtable, Trump discussed COVID-19 related issues such as testing, PPE, and

supplies. The Navajo Nation has been hit harder than others with the COVID-19 pandemic and has been considered one of the worst hotspots in the country for the coronavirus. The president announced that the federal government would assist the Gila River Indian Community with \$40

million from the Tribal Relief Fund and \$600 million for Navajo Nation but the funds have yet to be released to the tribes and have added restricted use. The Tribal Relief Fund was included in the CARES Act to help tribes with expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Celebrating GRIC Graduates

Congratulations on your achievement in education!

Be on the look out for a Special Edition recognizing all of the students who have graduated or have been certified or promoted.

If you haven't received a 2020 Graduate Information Form, contact the Tribal Education Department or the GRIN so we can highlight your accomplishment in the June 19 Special Edition!

- Preschool to Kindergarten
- Kindergarten to First Grade
- Eighth Grade to High School
- GED
- College Universities, Trade School or post High School Programs

Contact information: GRIN@gric.nsn.us or Tribal Education Department at (520) 562-3662. **DEADLINE: June 1, 2020**



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

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

Tribal Elections Program
520-562-9735

Communications & Public Affairs Office
520-562-9715



HEALTH ALERT

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Gila River Indian Community is the first to acquire a Mobile Hospital Unit for the treatment of Native Americans with COVID-19.

- The new mobile hospital unit is a state of the art healthcare structure that will expand our capacity to address the acute care needs of the Community. It can be tasked to serve in a number of ways, most importantly, for those patients that may require an ICU-level of care.
- Gila River Health Care, in its approach to mitigate the current course of the coronavirus, has invested \$1.3M for the purchase of a fully-equipped Mobile Hospital Unit to treat COVID-19 patients.
- The new Mobile Hospital Unit has ten treatment bays and increases Gila River Health Care's inpatient department capacity from 15 to 25.
- The purchase of the COVID-19 Mobile Hospital Unit is part of GRHC's aggressive approach to care for its' patients and the Community during the pandemic.
- The COVID-19 Mobile Hospital Unit is located on the east side of Health Care Drive in the rear parking lot of the Women's Clinic at HHKMH in Sacaton.



Reminder
MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURE
 Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices & Outpatient Clinics will be
CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • May 6, 2020

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, May 6, 2020, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:18 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Pamela Johnson

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-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Pamela Johnson; D5- Janice Stewart, Marlin Dixon, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:22), Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4- Monica Antone

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #4 AND #5; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #4 AND NEW BUSINESS #10 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADD NEW BUSINESS #11

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction – Christopher R. Cabanillas, Director of Management Information Systems Department

Presenter: Kathyleen Curley

MS. KATHYLEEN CURLEY INTRODUCED MR. CHRISTOPHER R. CABANILLAS. MR. CABANILLAS PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND AND THE DEPARTMENT. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS, GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS AND LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

REPORTS

*1. Human Resources Adjudicator Process Report – March 2019- March 2020

Presenter: Michelle Barber

REPORT HEARD

2. GRIC-Wide Food Distributions

Presenter: Kathyleen Curley

REPORT HEARD

3. GRHC Tobacco Tax Grant FY20 Second Quarter Report (January – March 2020)

Presenters: Myron Schurz, Judith Roth

REPORT HEARD

>4. Community-Wide Crime Statistics 2020

Presenter: Timothy Chavez

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Head Start Monthly Report – February 2020

Presenter: Carolina Kelly

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

6. The Caring House Quarterly Report – January 2020 – March 2020 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Ron Preston

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 45-MINUTE LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 1:16 P.M. AND REMAINED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.]

7. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report for March 2020 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. Gila River Gaming Commission Report to the Community Council March 2020 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Duane Johns, Melvin Sanderson

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. GRIC Food Distribution Campaign (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Joseph Young, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #6, #7, #8, AND #9

RESOLUTIONS

>1. 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; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Michelle Barber

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Resolution Approving A Cooperative Agreement Between The Bureau Of Indian Affairs And The Gila River Indian Community For Cooperation With Wildland Fire Management Activities And Reimbursement Of Emergency Costs (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Kathy Garcia, Kyle Woodson

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Amending Resolution GR-45-20 To Authorize Remote Attendance Of Community Council And Standing Committees By Office Of General Counsel, Treasurer And Presenters (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Michael Carter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Pinal County Public Health Services District And The Gila River Indian Community Fire Department To Facilitate Limited Access To Pinal County Health Information (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Kathy Garcia

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Government & Management Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancies to the Community Council – (2) Council Seat Vacancies (G&MSC forwards to Council to declare (2) Council Seat Vacancies)

Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (2) VACANCIES

2. Natural Resources Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council - (2) Council Seats (NRSC forwards to Council to declare vacancy for (2) Council Seats)

Presenters: Natural Resources Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (2) VACANCIES

3. Health & Social Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (2) Council Seats (H&SSC forwards to Council to declare 2 Council Seat Vacancies)

Presenters: Health & Social Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (2) VACANCIES

4. Legislative Standing Committee Declaration Of Vacancies (2) Council Seats (LSC forwards to Council to declare (2) Council Seat Vacancies)

Presenters: Legislative Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (2) VACANCIES

5. Education Standing Committee Declaration Of Vacancies (3) Council Seats (ESC forwards to Council to declare (3) Council Seat Vacancies)

Presenters: Education Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (3) VACANCIES

6. Cultural Resource Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council - (1) Council Seat (CRSC forwards to Council to declare vacancy for (1) Council Seat)

Presenters: Cultural Resource Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (1) VACANCY

7. Economic Development Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (1) Council Seat (EDSC forwards to Council to declare (1) Council seat vacancy)

Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE (1) VACANCY

8. Data Sharing with State Agencies during COVID – 19 Pandemic (H&SSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval of the motions)

Presenter: Robert Yoder

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT WITH THE UNDERSTANDINGS

9. Arizona Supreme Court Case Affecting Sovereign Immunity Of Tribal Entities (LSC motioned to concur with Government & Management Standing Committee to forward to Council with recommendations on page 2 and 3 of the memo dates March 16, 2020; EDSC concurs)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

>10. Education Research Dissertation Results Findings – Dr. Raetava Godinez EdD (ESC forwards to Council under New Business as FYI and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Dr. Raetava Godinez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

11. Extension of COVID-19 Employee Leave for School-Age Children

Presenter: Governor Stephen R. Lewis

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO FORWARD TO THE MAY 8, 2020 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING CONTINGENT UPON BEING PROCESSED THROUGH CCSO MINUTES

1. September 12, 2019 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS

2. March 24, 2020 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS

3. March 30, 2020 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

4. April 1, 2020 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

5. April 24, 2020 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ REVIEWING COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY 8, 2020 IN THE AFTERNOON

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:13 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AMBIENT AIR MONITORING NETWORK REVIEW

Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §58.10 Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Program (AQP) will make its annual monitoring network plan available for public inspection prior to submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Annual Ambient Monitoring Network Review and Data Summary present changes to and data collected from the air quality monitoring network during calendar year 2019. This document will be

available for review at the GRIC DEQ office located at 168 Skill Center Dr., Sacaton, AZ 85147, and on the AQP website at www.gricdeq.org under Public Notices.

Public comments may be submitted in writing to GRIC DEQ Air Quality, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, Arizona, 85147. Additional information is available from GRIC DEQ Air Quality, 168 Skill Center Dr., Sacaton, AZ 85147, the AQP website (www.gricdeq.org under Air), or by calling 520-562-2234.

Department of Public Works Annual Water Quality Report 2019

This report is a snapshot of your water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants detected during the calendar year of this report. The

presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human

activity including: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants

Public Water System #090400047 Sacaton – 2019 Water Quality Table
Your water comes from 3 ground water sources. Community Districts served are Districts 1, 2 & 3.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfection By-Product:								
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Units: ppb	N/A	60	2.4	N/A	N/A	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Units: ppb	N/A	80	10	N/A	N/A	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants:								
Arsenic Units: ppb	0	10	3.7	2.9	3.7	2017 - 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production wastes
Fluoride Units: ppm	4	4	1.5	0.53	1.5	2017 - 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [reported as Nitrogen] Units: ppm	10	10	6.4	3.3	6.4	2019	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium Units: ppm			180	130	180	2017 - 2019	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; salt water intrusion
Radiological Contaminants:								
Uranium (combined) Units: ppb	0	30	26	6.8	26	2017 - 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Number of Sites Over A.L.		Sample Date	A.L. Exceeded	Typical Source
Lead and Copper Rule:								
Copper Units: ppm-90 th Percentile	1.3	1.3	0.16	0 site over action level		2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead Units: ppb-90 th Percentile	0	15	0.86	0 site over action level		2017	No	Corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological Testing:

We are required to test your water regularly for signs of microbial contamination. Positive test results could lead to follow-up investigations called assessments and potentially the issuance of public health advisories. Assessments could lead to required corrective actions. The information below summarizes the results of those tests.

Sampling Requirements	Sampling Conducted (months)	Total E. coli Positive	Assessment Triggers	Assessments Conducted
7 Samples due monthly	12 out of 12	0	0	0

Unit Description:

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or microgram per liter (ug/L)
positives samples	positive samples/yr.: the number of positive samples taken that year
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: % of samples taken monthly that were positive
N/A	N/A: Not Applicable
ND	ND: Not Detected
mrem/yr.	mrem/yr.: Millirem per year
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Public Water System #090400692 Wild Horse Pass – 2019 Water Quality Table
Your water comes from 4 ground water sources. Community Districts served are Wild Horse Pass, Dist. 6 & 7.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfection By-Product:								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Units: ppb	N/A	80	1.7	1.6	1.7	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Inorganic Contaminants:									
Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Number of Sites Over A.L.		Sample Date	A.L. Exceeded	Typical Source	
Arsenic Units: ppb	0	10	6.4	ND		6.4	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production wastes
Barium Units: ppm	2	2	0.077	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium Units: ppb	5	5	0.16	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Internal corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from electroplating and industrial chemical factories and metal refineries; runoff from waste
Chromium Units: ppb	100	100	8.8	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride Units: ppm	4	4	0.61	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [reported as Nitrogen] Units: ppm	10	10	1.9	0.99		1.9	2019	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium Units: ppb	50	50	1.4	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff
Sodium Units: ppm			290	N/A		N/A	2019	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; salt water intrusion
Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Number of Sites Over A.L.		Sample Date	A.L. Exceeded	Typical Source	
Lead and Copper Rule:									
Copper Units: ppm-90 th Percentile	1.3	1.3	0.144	0 site over action level		2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
Lead Units: ppb-90 th Percentile	0	15	1.132	0 site over action level		2017	No	Corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits	

Microbiological Testing:

We are required to test your water regularly for signs of microbial contamination. Positive test results could lead to follow-up investigations called assessments and potentially the issuance of public health advisories. Assessments could lead to required corrective actions. The information below summarizes the results of those tests.

Sampling Requirements	Sampling Conducted (months)	Total E. coli Positive	Assessment Triggers	Assessments Conducted
25 Samples due monthly	12 out of 12	0	0	0

Unit Description:

Term	Definition
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, Triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Public Water System #090400691 Aerodyne – 2019 Water Quality Table
Your water comes from 1 ground water source which served the Aerodyne Subdivision. The ground water source is from Public Water System #090400345 (Lone Butte Industrial Park).

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
Disinfection By-Product:									
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Units: ppb	N/A	60	1.9	N/A	N/A	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Units: ppb	N/A	80	4.5	N/A	N/A	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Inorganic Contaminants:									
Arsenic Units: ppb	0	10	5.9	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production wastes
Barium Units: ppm	2	2	0.11	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium Units: ppb	100	100	9	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [reported as Nitrogen] Units: ppm	10	10	3.8	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium Units: ppb	50	50	3.1	N/A		N/A	2019	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff
Sodium Units: ppm			190	N/A		N/A	2019	190	Erosion of natural deposits; salt water intrusion

Radiological Contaminants:								
Combined Radium 226/228 Units: pCi/L	0	5	0.7	N/A	N/A	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Number of Sites Over A.L.	Sample Date	A.L. Exceeded	Typical Source	
Lead and Copper Rule:								
Copper Units: ppm-90 th Percentile	1.3	1.3	0.102	0 site over action level	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	

Microbiological Testing:				
We are required to test your water regularly for signs of microbial contamination. Positive test results could lead to follow-up investigations called assessments and potentially the issuance of public health advisories. Assessments could lead to required corrective actions. The information below summarizes the results of those tests.				
Sampling Requirements	Sampling Conducted (months)	Total E. coli Positive	Assessment Triggers	Assessments Conducted
1 Sample due monthly	12 out of 12	0	0	0

Public Water System #090400092 Casa Blanca – 2019 Water Quality Table Your water comes from 2 ground water sources. Community Districts served are Districts 5.								
Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfection By-Product:								
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Units: ppb	N/A	60	2.6	N/A	N/A	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Units: ppb	N/A	80	12	N/A	N/A	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants:								
Arsenic Units: ppb	0	10	6	5.8	6	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production wastes
Fluoride Units: ppm	4	4	1.2	0.83	1.2	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [reported as Nitrogen] Units: ppm	10	10	8.6	1.2	8.6	2019	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium Units: ppm			180	140	180	2017	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; salt water intrusion
Radiological Contaminants:								
Uranium (combined) Units: ppb	0	30	11.9	7.897	11.92	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Number of Sites Over A.L.	Sample Date	A.L. Exceeded	Typical Source	
Lead and Copper Rule:								
Copper Units: ppm-90 th Percentile	1.3	1.3	0.188	0 site over action level	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	

Microbiological Testing:				
We are required to test your water regularly for signs of microbial contamination. Positive test results could lead to follow-up investigations called assessments and potentially the issuance of public health advisories. Assessments could lead to required corrective actions. The information below summarizes the results of those tests.				
Sampling Requirements	Sampling Conducted (months)	Total E. coli Positive	Assessment Triggers	Assessments Conducted
3 Samples due monthly	12 out of 12	0	0	0

Public Water System #090400096 Stotonic – 2019 Water Quality Table Your water comes from 2 ground water sources. Community District served is District 4. The two ground water sources are from Public Water System #090400047 & #090400092.								
Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfection By-Product:								
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Units: ppb	N/A	60	2.6	N/A	N/A	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Units: ppb	N/A	80	53	N/A	N/A	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants:								
Arsenic Units: ppb	0	10	6	2.9	6	2017 - 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production wastes
Fluoride Units: ppm	4	4	1.5	0.53	1.5	2017 - 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [reported as Nitrogen] Units: ppm	10	10	8.6	1.2	8.6	2019	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium Units: ppm			180	130	180	2017 - 2019	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; salt water intrusion
Radiological Contaminants:								
Uranium (combined) Units: ppb	0	30	26	6.8	26	2017 - 2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Number of Sites Over A.L.	Sample Date	A.L. Exceeded	Typical Source	

Lead and Copper Rule:							
Copper Units: ppm-90 th Percentile	1.3	1.3	0.36	0 site over action level	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead Units: ppb-90 th Percentile	0	15	1.1	0 site over action level	2017	No	Corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological Testing:				
We are required to test your water regularly for signs of microbial contamination. Positive test results could lead to follow-up investigations called assessments and potentially the issuance of public health advisories. Assessments could lead to required corrective actions. The information below summarizes the results of those tests.				
Sampling Requirements	Sampling Conducted (months)	Total E. coli Positive	Assessment Triggers	Assessments Conducted
3 Samples due monthly	12 out of 12	0	0	0

Significant Deficiencies

Sanitary deficiencies are defects in a water system's infrastructure, design, operation, maintenance, or management that cause, or may cause interruptions to the "multiple barrier" protection system and adversely affect the system's ability to produce safe and reliable drinking water in adequate quantities. The following is a listing of significant deficiencies that have yet to be corrected. Your public water system is still working to correct these deficiencies and interim milestones are shown, as applicable. Deficiency Title: Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP) Date Identified: 3/6/2019 Overall Due Date: 12/31/2020 Deficiency Description: When drinking water piping connects to various plumbing fixtures, contamination may occur if the connections are improperly protected. For example, when a backflow event occurs, it may allow contaminants to reverse flow from the fixture/equipment back into the drinking water piping. Your water system has several service connections that could be considered high risk in terms of backflow. These connections are separated from the water system by backflow prevention assemblies. However, the assemblies are not reliable unless tested annually and, when necessary, repaired. To provide an additional level of sanitary protection for your water system, a formal written program should be developed and implemented. Corrective Action Plan: Cross-connections and backflow into the distribution system present a significant threat to

the public's health. We are in the process of developing and implementing the cross-connection control program to protect public water systems from the hazards originating on the premises of our customers & from temporary connections that may impair or alter the water in the public water system. The program will include annual inspection and testing of all backflow prevention assemblies by facilities owner. **Special Education Statements:** While your drinking water meets the EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. **Additional Information for Nitrate** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. **Additional Information for Lead** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is

primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. PWS system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>. Please feel free to contact the number provided below for more information or for a translated copy of the report if you need it in another language. * Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. * For more information please contact: Department of Public Works, Chris Huang, Water/Wastewater Operations Manager PO Box G, 186 S. Skill Center Road, Sacaton, Arizona, 85147 Phone: (520) 796-4532 Fax: (520) 796-4539

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