



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# The Gila River Indian Community certifies election results

*Stephen Roe Lewis wins third term, Monica L. Antone will be lieutenant governor, judges elected and three constitution amendments pass*

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
Gila River Indian News

At the Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council on Nov. 18, the Gila River Indian Community certified the election results for the General Election and Special Election, which were held Nov. 3.

Stephen Roe Lewis won with 57.45 percent of the vote over Robert Stone for the Office of the Governor. Lewis will serve his third term as governor.

Monica L. Antone won the Office of the Lieutenant Governor with 50.84 percent of the vote over Carolyn K. Thompson. Antone currently serves as a District 4 Community Council Representative. She previously served as lieutenant governor from 2015-2017.

Joseph Manuel was elected as chief judge with Sheri Cassa, Charles Aragon, Janice Breckenridge and Anthony J. Hill serving as associate judges. The General Election results were certified with 2,479 total ballots cast.

Community Council also certified the results for the Special Constitution Amendments Election, which was held in conjunction with the Nov. 3 General Election. All three amendments passed with "Yes" votes on amendments to Article III – Membership, Article XI – Districts and Article XV – Powers of the Gila River Indian Community Council. A total of 2,466 ballots were cast in the Special Election.

On Article III, the Community voted "Yes" to remove the language in the constitution that states a Community member who remains away from the reservation continuously for 20 years shall forfeit his or her tribal membership.

On Article XI the Community voted "Yes" to change the legal boundary of the Co-op Village from District 7 to District 6.

On Article XV, the Community voted to remove the Secretary of the Interior from Community Council's ordinance and resolution approval process.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
2020 GENERAL ELECTION  
NOVEMBER 3, 2020  
OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

| OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR | DIST 1 POLLING SITE | DIST 2 POLLING SITE | DIST 3 POLLING SITE | DIST 4 POLLING SITE | DIST 5 POLLING SITE | DIST 6 POLLING SITE | DIST 7 POLLING SITE | ABSENTEE | TOTALS | %      |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| ROBERT STONE           | 55                  | 17                  | 97                  | 128                 | 154                 | 91                  | 28                  | 71       | 641    | 26.53% |
| STEPHEN R. LEWIS       | 152                 | 49                  | 311                 | 200                 | 165                 | 228                 | 84                  | 199      | 1388   | 57.45% |
| WRITE-IN CANDIDATE     | 47                  | 12                  | 93                  | 67                  | 63                  | 24                  | 4                   | 77       | 387    | 16.02% |

| OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | DIST 1 POLLING SITE | DIST 2 POLLING SITE | DIST 3 POLLING SITE | DIST 4 POLLING SITE | DIST 5 POLLING SITE | DIST 6 POLLING SITE | DIST 7 POLLING SITE | ABSENTEE | TOTALS | %      |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| CAROLYN K. THOMPSON               | 145                 | 29                  | 277                 | 175                 | 173                 | 154                 | 38                  | 157      | 1148   | 46.99% |
| MONICA L. ANTONE                  | 110                 | 42                  | 217                 | 229                 | 197                 | 180                 | 78                  | 189      | 1242   | 50.84% |
| WRITE-IN CANDIDATE                | 2                   | 7                   | 13                  | 4                   | 17                  | 7                   | 0                   | 3        | 53     | 2.17%  |

| OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE | DIST 1 POLLING SITE | DIST 2 POLLING SITE | DIST 3 POLLING SITE | DIST 4 POLLING SITE | DIST 5 POLLING SITE | DIST 6 POLLING SITE | DIST 7 POLLING SITE | ABSENTEE | TOTALS | %      |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| JOSEPH MANUEL             | 213                 | 68                  | 447                 | 355                 | 337                 | 269                 | 100                 | 304      | 2093   | 94.49% |
| WRITE-IN CANDIDATE        | 10                  | 1                   | 24                  | 19                  | 15                  | 34                  | 3                   | 16       | 122    | 5.51%  |

| OFFICE OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE | DIST 1 POLLING SITE | DIST 2 POLLING SITE | DIST 3 POLLING SITE | DIST 4 POLLING SITE | DIST 5 POLLING SITE | DIST 6 POLLING SITE | DIST 7 POLLING SITE | ABSENTEE | TOTALS | %      |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| SHERI CASSA               | 174                 | 52                  | 329                 | 227                 | 240                 | 186                 | 62                  | 244      | 1514   | 22.95% |
| CHARLES ARAGON            | 155                 | 41                  | 285                 | 205                 | 210                 | 197                 | 65                  | 230      | 1388   | 21.04% |
| JANICE BRECKENRIDGE       | 154                 | 39                  | 329                 | 229                 | 249                 | 256                 | 80                  | 252      | 1588   | 24.07% |
| ANTHONY J. HILL           | 133                 | 34                  | 272                 | 208                 | 243                 | 220                 | 64                  | 217      | 1391   | 21.09% |
| DARREN PEDRO-MARTINEZ     | 14                  | 8                   | 63                  | 25                  | 32                  | 15                  | 7                   | 33       | 197    | 2.99%  |
| WRITE-IN CANDIDATE        | 35                  | 23                  | 116                 | 92                  | 69                  | 102                 | 11                  | 71       | 519    | 7.87%  |

**CERTIFICATION**

WE THE UNDERSIGNED ELECTION OFFICIALS DO HEREBY AFFIRM THAT THESE ARE A TRUE AND ACCURATE ABSTRACT OF THE BALLOTS CAST IN THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020. THIS ELECTION WAS CONDUCTED UNDER THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY.

DISTRICT 1 ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*  
 DISTRICT 2 ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*  
 DISTRICT 3 ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*  
 DISTRICT 4 ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*  
 DISTRICT 5 ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*  
 DISTRICT 6 ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*  
 DISTRICT 7 ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*  
 COMMUNITY ELECTION COORDINATOR: *[Signature]*  
 COMMUNITY CHIEF ELECTION JUDGE: *[Signature]*

| TOTAL BALLOTS CAST |      |
|--------------------|------|
| DISTRICT 1         | 284  |
| DISTRICT 2         | 79   |
| DISTRICT 3         | 513  |
| DISTRICT 4         | 411  |
| DISTRICT 5         | 390  |
| DISTRICT 6         | 347  |
| DISTRICT 7         | 119  |
| ABSENTEE           | 356  |
| TOTALS             | 2479 |

**SPECIAL ELECTION OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
PAGE 3

# Pee Posh Veterans visit throughout GRIC for Veterans Day

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

The Pee-Posh Veterans Association spent Veterans Day paying tribute to those who have served in the U.S. military with flags ceremonies across the Community.

The Gila River Indian Community has a proud history of service and on Nov. 11 the veterans began at the Multipurpose Building in District 7 lowering the flags to honor those who have served and sacrificed. They also visited the

cemeteries in District 5, 6, and 7 for flag ceremonies. Prior to the ceremonies, the Pee-Posh Veterans Association cleaned the graves and placed small flags for veterans.

The association is usually busy traveling, conducting honor guard duties, participating in events and parades but with the current pandemic and the restrictions that come with it all of that has been canceled. The veterans have continued to assist others and the Community such as helping the elders when needed.



Pee Posh Veterans association visit District 5 for services in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

# WATER RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, December 10, 2020



You are invited to celebrate Water Rights Day virtually with a video presentation. The video will premiere on Gila River Broadcasting Corporation and Gila River Indian Community Facebook page at 6:00 p.m. on December 10, 2020.


The video will feature various guest speakers, cultural presentations and more!

Stay tuned for more information on how to enter a raffle and win commemorative Water Rights Day items.




For more information, please contact the  
Communication and Public Affairs Office at (520) 562-9713





**Gila River**  
HEALTH CARE



**THE HUB**  
COVID+FLU Resource Center

**COVID-19 Test Dates,  
Flu Vaccines & More!**  
**Visit [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://grhc.org/hub)**

**FLU Vaccine (only) CLINICS**

|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>District 5<br/>Service Center<br/>November 23rd<br/>8 am - 4 pm</p> | <p>KHC Pharmacy<br/>Drive Thru<br/>November 24th<br/>9 am - 4 pm</p> | <p>Lone Butte<br/>Casino<br/>November 25th<br/>7 am - 4 pm</p> | <p>HHKMH Pharmacy<br/>Drive Thru<br/>November 25th<br/>9 am - 5 pm</p> | <p>Sacaton<br/>Post Office<br/>November 30th<br/>9 am - 11 pm</p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|

*Thanksgiving Holiday*

Gila River Health Care's  
Administrative Offices & Outpatient Clinics will be  
**CLOSED**  
**THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 26-28, 2020**

**HHKMH PHARMACY HOURS**  
11/26..... **CLOSED**  
11/27 - 11/29 ..... **10:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

We are here to help. GRHC's normal business hours will resume Monday, November 30th. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at HHKMH.

HONORING OUR HISTORY.  
KEEPING OUR FAITH.




**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

WE ARE RESILIENT.  
WE ARE ENDURING.  
WE ARE GILA RIVER STRONG

**LIFE CENTER**  
DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

This year's health fair will be offered virtually. A virtual "Just Move It" walk will be held in conjunction with the health fair. Our theme for this year is

"A Healthy Future  
One Step at a Time."



**1 MILE / 3 MILE VIRTUAL WALK & RUN**

To join the event, go to  
[GRHC.ORG/LifeCenter](https://grhc.org/lifecenter)



**Governor**  
**Stephen Roe Lewis**  
 Lt. Governor  
**Robert Stone**  
 Community Council  
 Representatives  
**District 1**  
 Arzie Hogg  
 Joey Whitman  
**District 2**  
 Carol Schurz  
**District 3**  
 Avery White  
 Rodney Jackson  
**District 4**  
 Jennifer Allison  
 Regina Antone-Smith  
 Delmar Jones  
 Monica Antone  
**District 5**  
 Marlin Dixon  
 Thomas White  
 Brian E. Davis, Sr.  
 James De La Rosa  
**District 6**  
 Anthony Villareal, Sr.  
 Terrance B. Evans  
 Charles Goldtooth  
**District 7**  
 Devin Redbird  
 Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer  
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# Gov. Lewis extends Executive Order to Jan. 31, 2021

**Emma Hughes**  
 Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community has extended Comprehensive Executive Order No. 9 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic due to increasing number of cases in Arizona and nationally. The order was set to expire on Nov. 30, but has now been extended to Jan. 31, 2021. The Executive Order includes a public state of emergency for the Community, partial government closure, stay-at-home order, physical distancing and mask requirement, and virtual learning for schools in the Community.

Many states have experienced record high numbers in COVID-19 cases, including Arizona with 287,225 cases and 6,384 deaths as of Nov. 19. There is still no state-wide mandate on wearing a face mask to prevent the spread of the virus.

“We are seeing a national spike in COVID cases across the United States,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in his continued video updates on the Community’s COVID-19 data report on GRIC’s Facebook page.

The most recent report lists 2,423 total positive cases; 1,006 GRIC members and 1,417 non-

members and 27 deaths. Regular testing in the Community remains a priority, “I don’t know another jurisdiction who’s testing as aggressively as we are,” said Gov. Lewis.

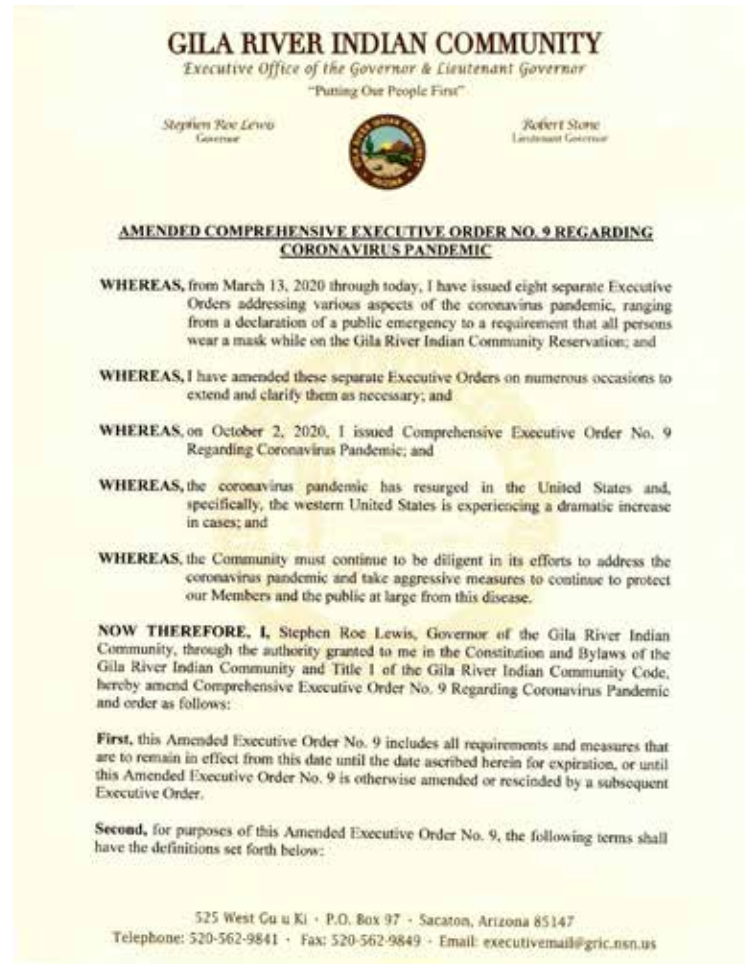
With the Community’s partial shutdown and stay-at-home orders that have been in effect for eight months, “COVID fatigue” was another topic in Gov. Lewis’ latest video. Many people are wanting to see family and friends especially during the holidays but precautions must stay in place to protect the public at large.


Although there is still no approved vaccine, the federal government has been conducting trials and is working to have a vaccine available by the end of the year. “I will work with Community Council on a plan for the Community,” said Gov. Lewis in regards to the vaccine should it become approved and available.

Continue to protect yourselves and others by wearing a mask to cover both your nose and mouth when you are around others. Avoid close contact and large crowds, wash your hands often, and stay home if you are sick or not feeling well.

*“I don’t know another jurisdiction who’s testing as aggressively as we are,”*

## Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis





**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
 2020 SPECIAL CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS ELECTION  
 NOVEMBER 3, 2020  
 OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

| QUESTION #1 | DIST 1 POLLING SITE | DIST 2 POLLING SITE | DIST 3 POLLING SITE | DIST 4 POLLING SITE | DIST 5 POLLING SITE | DIST 6 POLLING SITE | DIST 7 POLLING SITE | ABSENTEE | TOTALS | %      |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| YES         | 169                 | 48                  | 340                 | 235                 | 253                 | 257                 | 77                  | 286      | 1665   | 67.77% |
| NO          | 92                  | 31                  | 169                 | 169                 | 135                 | 87                  | 39                  | 70       | 792    | 32.23% |

| QUESTION #2 | DIST 1 POLLING SITE | DIST 2 POLLING SITE | DIST 3 POLLING SITE | DIST 4 POLLING SITE | DIST 5 POLLING SITE | DIST 6 POLLING SITE | DIST 7 POLLING SITE | ABSENTEE | TOTALS | %      |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| YES         | 126                 | 38                  | 281                 | 227                 | 190                 | 222                 | 32                  | 176      | 1292   | 53.41% |
| NO          | 129                 | 40                  | 224                 | 175                 | 195                 | 120                 | 81                  | 163      | 1127   | 46.59% |


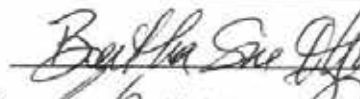
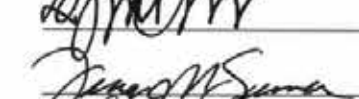
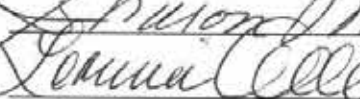

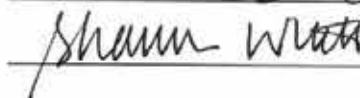



  

| QUESTION #3 | DIST 1 POLLING SITE | DIST 2 POLLING SITE | DIST 3 POLLING SITE | DIST 4 POLLING SITE | DIST 5 POLLING SITE | DIST 6 POLLING SITE | DIST 7 POLLING SITE | ABSENTEE | TOTALS | %      |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| YES         | 154                 | 49                  | 305                 | 250                 | 253                 | 215                 | 55                  | 210      | 1491   | 61.59% |
| NO          | 101                 | 29                  | 201                 | 152                 | 130                 | 126                 | 58                  | 133      | 930    | 38.41% |


**CERTIFICATION**

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| DISTRICT 1 ELECTION JUDGE<br>      | DISTRICT 2 ELECTION JUDGE<br>      |
| DISTRICT 3 ELECTION JUDGE<br>      | DISTRICT 4 ELECTION JUDGE<br>      |
| DISTRICT 5 ELECTION JUDGE<br>      | DISTRICT 6 ELECTION JUDGE<br>      |
| DISTRICT 7 ELECTION JUDGE<br>      | COMMUNITY CHIEF ELECTION JUDGE<br> |
| COMMUNITY ELECTION COORDINATOR<br> |   |


| TOTAL BALLOTS CAST |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| DISTRICT 1         | 264         |
| DISTRICT 2         | 79          |
| DISTRICT 3         | 511         |
| DISTRICT 4         | 405         |
| DISTRICT 5         | 389         |
| DISTRICT 6         | 346         |
| DISTRICT 7         | 117         |
| ABSENTEE           | 355         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>2466</b> |



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# Gila River Hotels & Casinos Betting on Phoenix Suns and Mercury

*Future is bright for Valley's sports and entertainment giants and their fans, guests*

**Teaya Vicente**  
Gila River Hotels & Casinos

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Nov. 16, 2020) - Nearly a decade before James Naismith introduced us to the sport of basketball and before Phoenix was placed on any map, the Akimel O'odham (Pima) and the Pee Posh (Maricopa) tribes joined in unity for the greater good of their communities. Together, two tribes became one, establishing the Gila River Indian Community.

Since that pivotal partnership in the mid-1800s, the "People of the River" have remained true to their community's commitment to the arts, culture and crafts, ultimately leading to the birth of Gila River Hotels & Casinos as a leading destination for entertainment in the Valley.

A new chapter begins today - a union between Gila River Hotels & Casinos and the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury that will bring all-new amenities to consumers across the Valley and elevate sports and entertainment in the region for years to come.

The two brands share

rich histories, strong cultures, commitments to community, and a high regard for hospitable excellence. This new collaboration creates many firsts for each organization, and notably, firsts for the National Basketball Association.

Club Gila River, one of two new courtside properties, brings the exclusive casino partner's luxury atmosphere to the Suns' transformed arena. Fans entering the more than 4,000 square foot club will be greeted with all-inclusive food from Chef-attended stations, hand-crafted cocktails and beverages, and made-to-order pizza - all a few steps from their seats.

"With an extensive history as a leader in entertainment in the Valley and a shared commitment to supporting our communities, Gila River Hotels & Casino is an ideal partner for the next chapter of our storied franchise," said Suns President & CEO Jason Rowley. "Offering new amenities across both organizations, we're excited to bring Gila River's hospitable

excellence and experiences to Suns and Mercury fans everywhere."

Beyond the hardwood at 201 E Jefferson Street, Suns and Mercury themed hotel rooms at Gila River's Wild Horse Pass (Suns) and Vee Quiva (Mercury) resorts will be adorned with autographed memorabilia and design elements mirroring the downtown arena - guests will be immersed in their favorite Valley teams from sunrise to sunset during their stay.

An NBA-first, Gila River Hotels and Casinos will introduce an all-new collection of gaming chips and table felts donned with the iconic Phoenix Suns sunburst and Phoenix Mercury planet logo across all properties: Wild Horse Pass, Vee Quiva and Lone Butte.

"The uniting of our two epic entertainment brands ensures both of our guests remarkable experiences, offerings and connection. Suns and Mercury fans will be welcomed with custom fanatic guest rooms, branded table felts and branded gaming chips- the first in the NBA," said Dominic

Orozco, Chief Strategic Marketing Officer. "As our organization grows, we are honored to have a partner with shared values and celebrated principles. Gila River Hotels & Casinos and Gila River Indian Community's love for sports, and the Valley, certifies our synergy will be a win for Arizona and beyond."

The partnership is also

beneficial to the Gila River Indian Community. The Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury will host several initiatives all season long for community members including youth basketball clinics for children, pre-game on-court recognitions, a college mentorship program, player appearances and many other community events.

With the Suns on

the rise, the Mercury chasing its fourth WNBA championship and the arena transformation well underway, the partnership with Gila River Hotels and Casinos promises to make the Valley a preeminent destination for sports and entertainment.



**GILA RIVER BROADCASTING CORPORATION PRESENTS  
A NEW TALK SHOW HOSTED BY CHIEF CHAVEZ OF THE  
GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT...**

**CHALIHINI NEWS**

**PREMIERING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

**Tuesdays @ 6:30PM | Saturdays @ 9:30AM**

**GRBC CHANNELS 19.1 AND 29.1**

/GILARIVERTV /GILARIVERPOLICE



## Sua:m Mashath

Sua:m Mashath means the yellow/brown month in the Akimel O’otham language. The name refers to the plant-life that goes dormant during the winter months. This month we celebrate two holidays, the first is Shonthal Ha Thashga (Veteran’s Day). Today, many community members are on active-duty, or have served in the armed forces. The second is Thova Thash (Thanksgiving). We have farmed in our middle Gila River valley for a very long time and have always given Thanks to our Creator for our bountiful crops. Although these holidays were introduced, O’otham have accepted them due to their importance.

Since first European contact with Padre Kino in 1694, new ways and items had been introduced to O’otham. Contact with different people would continue throughout the years. As new items and lifeways were introduced, O’otham have adapted and created new words for the introduced items. In the 1870’s the Presbyterians became rooted in our

community through the efforts of Reverend Charles Cook. In 1872, he built and operated a day school at Sacaton. At Santa Cruz Village, the government built and operated another day school. Both schools and others that followed brought changes to O’otham. The main influence was the introduction of western society holidays celebrated throughout the year.

As resilient O’otham, we adopted the celebrations into our lifestyles. Throughout grade school many, generations were taught the importance of the holidays. One holiday that O’otham readily accepted was the gathering of families at Thanksgiving. Traditionally, O’otham had conducted harvest feasts in the fall after the harvesting of their crops. In a sense, O’otham had already been celebrating their own indigenous version of Thanksgiving since time immemorial.

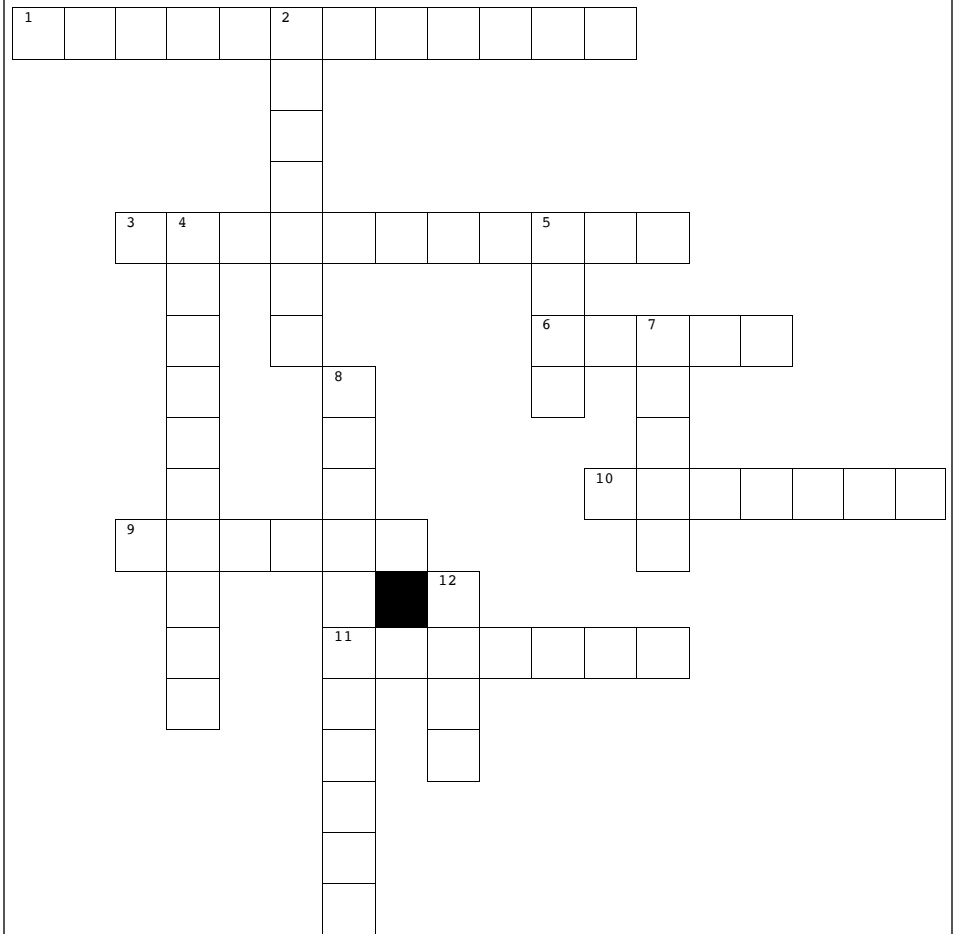
Other celebrations occurred throughout the year and did not necessarily follow a set pattern.

According to calendar stick accounts, certain head Chiefs and villages conducted social dances, foot races, kick-ball races and thoka games for the women. Of course, there was wagering between villages, as they cheered on their fastest racers and thoka teams. Many of the celebrations took place when the villages were prosperous with abundant crops, or when rainfall transformed the desert lands into gardens.

Today, our community is surrounded by modern cities and towns. Despite modern improvements we have managed to keep our Himthag intact for present and future generations. This is made possible through the teachings of our Elders. Historically, we have always been communal people who worked together to keep our farms in operation, villages intact and continue our strong family ties.

This month’s crossword puzzle will focus on items that will be used at the Thova Thash dinner table. Speak with an Elder,

### Thova Thash 2020 Crossword Puzzle



#### Across

- 1. Napkin
- 3. Fork
- 6. Ladle
- 9. Knife
- 10. Frying Pan
- 11. Chair

#### Down

- 2. Plate
- 4. Stew Pot
- 5. Cup
- 7. Spoon
- 8. Table
- 12. Coffee Mug

## Bicyclists hit the road for new Tribal Recreation and Wellness Center Bike Club

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

Tribal Recreation and the Wellness Center launched a virtual Bike Club on Oct. 18 as a safe activity for families. The Club challenges participants to virtually trek across the Community from district service center to service center beginning in District 1 and concluding at District 7.

The Bike Club is the first endeavor with biking that Tribal Rec and Wellness has pursued and drew numerous families and individuals to participate in the 8-week Bike Club.

“The Bike Club was a great way for us to tackle that challenge of encouraging families to stay active safely while social distancing during the pandemic,” said Angel Orque, Program Manager for Tribal Recreation and Wellness.

This year’s Bike Club consists of 34 teams (103 participants) comprised

of families and individual riders that reside on and off the Community. The Club has weekly non-competitive distance challenges that increase each week.

Tribal Rec and Wellness provided youth and adult loaner bikes to teams to use as they journeyed over 66-miles remotely. Participants aren’t physically riding from district to district; instead, they ride the given distance from home. Teams must track the distance given each week and submit proof via phone/GPS tracker and a photo for proof of completion.

Orque highlighted the higher level of consistent participation in the Club over other programs they’ve offered in the past.

“Normally for long-term challenges, participation seems to drop off every week, but the Bike Club has maintained a 90% completion rate from all 34 teams,” said Orque.

For the Wellness Center staff, this positive trend



**Team Road Rage is one of the many bike clubs joining in Tribal Recreation and the Wellness Center’s latest family exercise activity.** Tribal Rec and Wellness Photo

proves the effectiveness of the first-time program. Orque credits staff member Jacob Flores’ coordination for its steady success. Every week he tracks progress, proof of completion and sends weekly motivational

or speaker and ask how they would pronounce the items. Some words may be spoken differently between the villages. We encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives. From all of our families here at

your Huhugam Heritage Center, we wish you and your family a S-he:kig Thova Thash! (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Information for this article related from: *A Pima Remembers*, George Webb, University of Arizona

*Press, 1959; The Pima Indians*, Frank Russell, University of Arizona Press, Re-printed 1980 and *A Pima Past*, Anna Moore Shaw, University of Arizona Press, 1974.

10-mile distance for some teams was the pinnacle of their bike experience. In contrast, for others, it was relatively easy.

Week 7 will round out the Community ride challenging teams to bike

15 miles virtually traveling from District 6 to District 7. Week 8 will remain an open challenge for everyone, where the Wellness staff hopes teams ride more than 15 miles from the previous week, though not required.

Week 7 will round out the Community ride challenging teams to bike

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# HAPPY Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Holiday - Pandemic Guidelines  
As mandated by Gila River Indian Community Executive Orders

## Do's and Don'ts

It is the priority of the Gila River Indian Community to avoid transmission of COVID-19 and save as many lives as possible during the pandemic. For the health and safety of our Community, Thanksgiving Holiday Pandemic Guidelines are based on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, GRIC Tribal Health Department, Gila River Health Care, and members of the Governor's COVID-19 Taskforce Incident Management Team.

### Do's:

- Wear a facemask, physically distance, and wash your hands frequently
- Celebrate with extended family and friends with a virtual Thanksgiving party
- Have Thanksgiving meals with **ONLY MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD**
- Virtually share recipes with family and friends and host a virtual dinner party
- Shop for holiday sales online
- Watch sporting events, parades, and movies from home
- Create new ways to celebrate - **with members of your household only** - such as taking a walk together, playing virtual games, board games, puzzles, or involve kids with preparing meals that is age-appropriate
- **Stay home as much as possible**; only leave your home for **essential needs** and be sure to wear your mask and physically distance from others

### Don'ts:

- Attend gatherings with people outside your household
- Attend parades or other holiday events
- Shop in crowded stores during the holiday
- Participate in food distributions or drive-thru distributions during the holiday to limit contact with others (**Reminder**, there will be **no** District drive-thru distribution drives over the Thanksgiving Holiday)
- Exchange food dishes with other households

ALL ACTIVITY MUST ABIDE BY THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER #9 AND  
COVID-19 TASKFORCE GUIDELINES



For safety information about the COVID-19 Pandemic visit [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://www.gric.org/hub)

# International Pima Delegation begins Toy Drive for O’otham Children of Mexico

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

The International Pima Delegation is lending a hand during the holidays for the 14th year. Marshall Sunna, District 4, founded the cultural and traditional exchange in 2006, which provides assistance for O’otham children residing throughout the Mexican states of Sonora and Chihuahua. Their efforts include the annual toy drive, clothing and essential supplies for O’otham across the border. They are currently accepting donations for their next trip.

Some of the remote communities are only accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicles and although there is an English-Spanish language barrier, Sunna can communicate in O’otham. Despite the challenges, it’s all worth it.

“The gratitude for the gifts given are like prayers being answered for the families, and it’s very overwhelming,” Sunna said.

The Delegation partners with residential-style schools in the regions to serve the most children possible, though gifts are open to children 0 to 18-years-of-age.

In 2019, the group delivered over 100 gifts to two schools in Juan Diego, Sonora, and Yepachi, Chihuahua, Mex. And this year, the delegation will be providing gifts to children in the Mesa Blanca region of Madera, Chihuahua, Mex.

The effort provides much joy not only for the children but for Sunna as well. The amount of support from GRIC, and surrounding O’otham tribes, “shows the O’otham in Mexico that we are relatives and care for one another,” Sunna said.

Upon arrival, Sunna stresses that the O’otham living in Arizona provided the gifts, not just himself.

Due to COVID-19, PPE, cleaning products and hand sanitizer are a top priority to consider as gifts. Donors should also consider every day essential items such as diapers, socks and under garments because the areas are rural and lack convenience stores.

The donation deadline for this year’s distribution is Dec. 19. New and unwrapped gifts and items

must be delivered to Sunna, and for more information contact Marshall Sunna at (520) 424-1561 or wumpss58.ms@gmail.com.

Lastly, Sunna also wants to share that, “if anyone is unable to donate any items for this drive, I ask to give your prayers and blessings to our Pima children (eth O’odham A al) of Mexico and the Lord’s Prayer.”



The International Pima Delegation is holding another holiday drive for O’otham residing in Mexico. Photo Courtesy the International Pima Delegation

## Sacaton Elementary School District



# Congratulations

### Student Awards for October 2020

#### Sacaton Middle School Student of the Month

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Warrior Lewis
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Alaya Smallcanyon
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Alairein Cooper
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Michael Vasquez
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Kariann Howard

#### Sacaton Elementary Star Student

- Preschool – Alexa Miguel
- Kindergarten – Autumn Gonzalez
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - Deena Blissett
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Ryanne Manuel
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Charlotte Davis
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Alodie Walker

*Students are chosen for demonstrating SESD*

*Core Values:*

*Empowerment,*

*Compassion, Respect*

*Vision and Community*



# Heard Museum honors Native Veterans with virtual tribute

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

The Heard Museum took a new approach for the 8th Annual American Indian Sunset Tribute on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The Heard Museum usually hosts American Indian veterans from across the state of Arizona to a sunset program at the site of the American Indian

Veteran National Memorial in Phoenix. But because of COVID-19, the program was held virtually.

“This is the eighth year of celebrating the memorial, which is the first of its kind to offer an inclusive interpretation regarding the powerfully enduring legacy of the American Indian warrior and veteran,” said Kurt Monenerkit, Heard

Museum Director of Community Engagement.

Bo Koinva, Hopi, performed a song with an invocation provided by Troy Truax Jr., from the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Commander of American Legion Post 114 “Bushmasters.” Truax was followed by Shaylin Shabi Young, a member of the Navajo Nation who

performed a rendition of the national anthem.

“Most and all forms of language are a form of storytelling, stories define us and bring us together,” said Monenerkit, who introduced Kyle Mitchell, an Army Veteran from the Navajo Nation.

Mitchell detailed his experiences in the service.

“I enlisted right out

of high school in the early 2000s,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell was forthcoming with his personal struggles as he transitioned to home life after the constant pace of deployments.

“I seek peoples help and went through the VA and saw the Western concepts that were there and how they addressed the

issues I was going through, the different ailments,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell said that understanding your Indigenous background is important for Native American veterans.

“We have to be strong to ask for that help...you have to remember [your] culture, [your] identity and where [you] are from.”



# GILA RIVER GIVES THANKS



The Gila River Royalty Court invites you to submit a photo or video telling us what you are thankful for this year. Submit your entry by 11/21/20 and be entered to win a raffle prize!



## Directions:



- Your messages will be included in a compilation video & aired on Gila River Broadcast Corporation and GRIC social media outlets.
- Submit video/photo with your name, district and phone number to **Special.Events@gric.nsn.us**. Must be GRIC enrolled member.
- Deadline to submit messages is **November 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**
- Each person who follows the guidelines & submits a message will be entered into a raffle to win an Apple ipad, flat screen TV or a JBL Bluetooth speaker! Three winners will be selected, one raffle entry per person/submission.



## Some Helpful Tips:



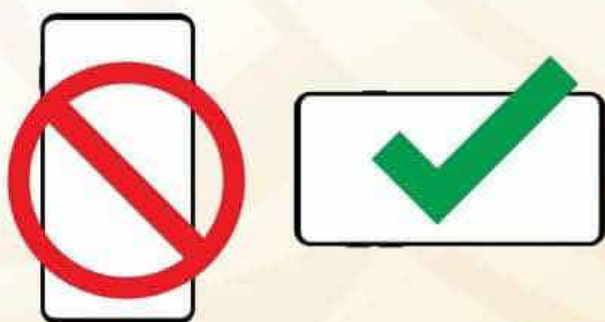
- Remember to shoot your photos or videos HORIZONTALLY (landscape mode)
- No background music
- Set your video to record at 1080p at 60fps
- Limit length of video to 90 seconds or less



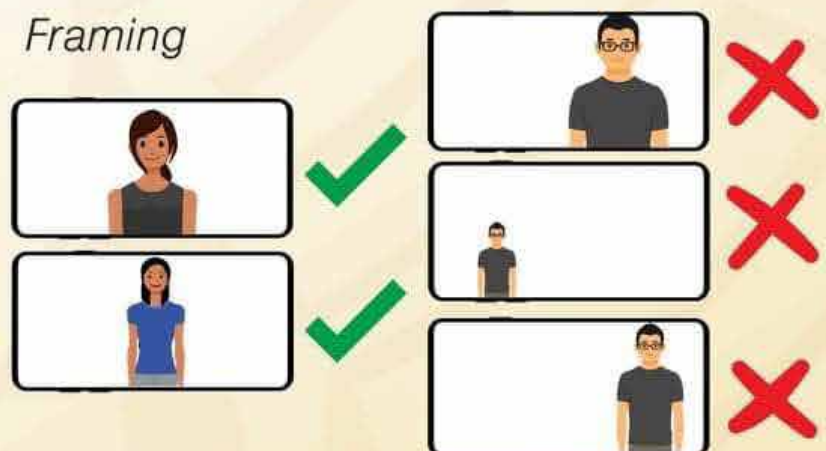
## Shooting Tips:



### Orientation



### Framing



FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT CPAO AT (520) 562-9859





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**2014 Chrysler 300**  
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# CELEBRATING TRIBAL EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

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**Congratulations** to Kenneth Manuel on being selected to Phoenix Business Journal's 2020 Most Admired Leaders. The mission of the Gila River Hotels & Casinos is to generate income for the Community, to provide employment opportunities for the Community, and to participate in the economic growth of the Gila River Indian Community.



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