



O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS  
10005 E. Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Scottsdale, AZ  
Permit No. 319

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



As 2020 comes to an end, many are saying, "I can't wait for this year to be over." This past year has been a trying one, with much adversity, trials and heartbreak. Many members of the Community experienced all of this and more in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to go about our daily lives a bit differently than we are used to. We all, in one way or another, have been affected by this pandemic that has entered our lands.

Community families have experienced difficulties and frustrations just to get basic necessities, as well as having to adjust their daily activities, eating, entertainment, meetings and travel. Schooling is done remotely and with adjusted schedules. Parents have had to play

the role of teacher, tutor, IT tech and babysitter.

Despite all this, the Salt River Clinic has been open with the staff working many hours conducting COVID-19 testing, as Community members worry if their tests will be positive or negative. Also, other front-line workers, like the professionals of the Salt River Police Department and Salt River Fire Department, have contributed greatly to the mission "to protect and serve."

Receiving notice that a family member or friend has passed during this time is traumatic and heartbreaking. Adding to the difficulty is the fact that we are not able to personally comfort others who are grieving the way we have done as a Community in the past. But we must seek the good in every situation: We can make an

effort to create and remember lifelong memories with family, and we can use the COVID-19 pandemic as a lesson to be better prepared for the future.

Dealing with these difficulties also gives us the opportunity to be grateful for what we do have and to grow as people by helping each other.

So, as we say goodbye to 2020, I want to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year and to "Remember 2020." Stay safe and wear your masks during this ongoing pandemic.

We welcome 2021 and look forward to a better year with optimism.

God Bless,  
SRPMIC President Martin Harvier

**SRPMIC  
COVID-19  
HOTLINE**  
**(480) 362-2603**

**PRESS 1:** Information about COVID-19 and Clinic operations  
**PRESS 2:** Schedule an appointment for testing  
**PRESS 3:** Request a copy of your test results

SRPMIC Requesting  
Community Input on  
Medical and  
Recreational  
Marijuana  
page 5  
\*\*\*

River People Health  
Center Construction  
Employment Job Fair  
**POSTPONED**  
page 9  
\*\*\*

"PARCHED"  
Documentary Features  
Indigenous Artist  
Perspectives on  
Water Rights  
page 12  
\*\*\*

SRPMIC Member Artist  
Phillip Smith  
page 13  
\*\*\*

Local Emergency  
Declaration  
**\*\*COVID-19\*\***  
Sixth Directive  
**AMENDED**

- December 16, 2020  
**SAFE GATHERINGS --  
Church Services**  
page 15  
\*\*\*

Proposed Amendments  
to the Community's Code  
of Ordinances,  
Chapter I, Division I,  
Preamble to Enterprises,  
Sec. I-35, Authorization  
Comment Period:  
12/9/2020 - 2/6/2021  
page 15

## SRPMIC Receives the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine



The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the Community on December 21 and is planned to be administered at the Salt River clinic as a drive-up clinic in a phased approach.

SUBMITTED BY THE SRPMIC  
COVID-19 COMMAND TEAM

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Department of Health and Human Services and the COVID-19 Command Team announced that SRPMIC has received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for the Community. The Moderna vaccine arrived on December 21 and is planned to be administered as a drive-up Point of Distribution (POD) in a phased approach.

Availability of the vaccine will be limited at first due to short supply. SRPMIC's HHS, Command Team and Executive Administration are developing guidelines based on CDC guide-

lines for which groups will get the vaccine first. The guidelines considered; who is the highest risk, who is essential to maintain important government services, and specific tribal needs. SRPMIC employees and members identified in this next category will be informed to preregister and set a date for taking the vaccine.

Two COVID-19 vaccines, manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna, finished clinical trials in early December and received FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by mid-December 2020. Rollout of the Pfizer vac-

Continued on page 3

## SRPMIC Employee Holiday Program



President Martin Harvier awards the Employee of the Year to Dr. Nancy Mangieri, an epidemiologist of the Salt River Clinic and Health and Human Services.

BY MARISSA JOHNSON  
O'odham Action News  
marissa.johnson2@srpmic-nsn.gov

The holidays are a special time for a lot of people. At the end of the year, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community likes to recognize and celebrate some of the hardest-working employees of the year. Usually, there is an employee luncheon with all the employees gathered at Talking Stick Resort Ballroom to recognize the nominees and the winner for Employee of the Year. People also use the event to socialize and participate in some fun

games—for example, a Battle of the Bosses, with managers of the tribal departments having a showdown on who can do the best musician impersonation!

This year, COVID-19 prevented gatherings of a large number of people. So, the Employee Holiday Program was broadcast over Vimeo on December 9.

To continue the tradition of the Holiday Employee Luncheon, there were games throughout the day for employees to participate in. The first game was an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, where the first 20 participants to send in their

Continued on page 9



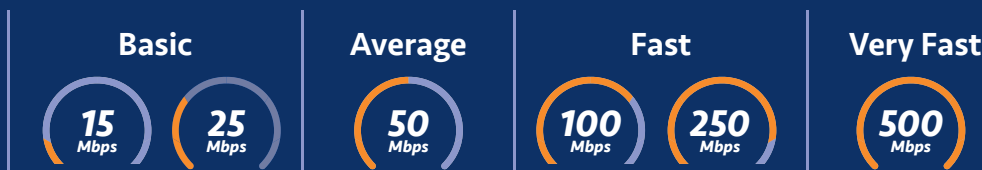
**Saddleback**  
COMMUNICATIONS  
A Division of the Salt River  
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**WISHING YOU HEALTH & HAPPINESS IN 2021**

**Thank You for Counting on Saddleback to Keep You Connected in the Year Ahead!**

**Pick the Internet Speed You Need**



**Get FiberSpeed Today!**  
**480.362.7150**

Residential customers only. Call for details.

## Family, Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry



**OPEN SATURDAYS**

**NOW! Braces by a Board Certified Orthodontist.**

**No out of pocket cost to you!**

Call to make appointment.

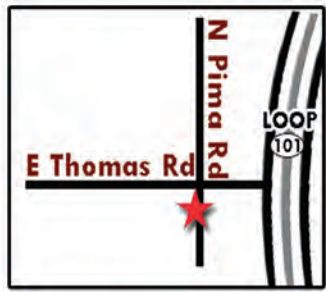
## WINTER SPECIAL

- FREE IMPLANT CONSULT
- FREE ORTHO CONSULT

**SRPMIC Employees pay \$0 dollars w/ Humana Insurance on following services**

- Exam/all X-rays
- Whitening
- Cleanings
- Bonding
- Fillings
- Tooth Colored Fillings
- Extractions
- Root Canals
- Periodontal Treatment (NON-SURGICAL Gum Treatment)

**A101 DENTAL CARE**  
101 & THOMAS  
**480-423-1000**  
2899 N. 87 St.  
Scottsdale (Thomas Rd. Exit)  
[www.scottsdaldentaloffices.com](http://www.scottsdaldentaloffices.com)



**Emergencies and Walk-Ins seen on the same day!**

# SRPMIC Partners With Maricopa County for the COVID-19 Vaccine

SUBMITTED BY SRPMIC COVID-19 COMMAND TEAM

The coronavirus changed our lives in 2020, creating the urgent need for a vaccine to contain the highly infectious disease. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, the first vaccine approved by the FDA, on December 11, set in motion the planned phased process to receive the initial COVID-19 vaccine.

On December 18, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community frontline healthcare workers and Salt River Fire Department staff began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine at one of the five regional distribution sites through a partnership with Maricopa County, Honor Health, and the Mayo Clinic. These distribution sites are only for Phase 1a workers as part of the CDC and State phased approach in the distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine.

Initially, many individuals were hesitant about a COVID-19 vaccine, including SRPMIC Fire Captain Genaro Rocha. Rocha was undecided when information came out about the possible COVID-19 vaccine, so he began educating himself by looking at the data about the vaccine and the approval process the vaccine went through. He decided to go ahead and get the vaccine.

“I felt privileged to take the vaccine because of my role in the Community as a first responder,” said Rocha. He indicated that he experienced some side effects the next day after the vaccination, but he has felt good since.

Priscilla Wilson, who works with the SRPMIC Health and Human Services Department, decided to get the COVID-19 vaccine because of her belief that vaccines have been proven to be the most effective way to decrease symptoms for a virus like COVID-19 and may prevent someone from getting the virus in the first place.

“Initially, I was worried about the symptoms because of what I was hearing from the media,” said Wilson, “but as a provider I did my own research and spoke with my colleagues, which helped with any fears.” Her only reaction was a sore arm the following morning.

Honor Health provided the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. The process for receiving the vaccine was easy; Honor Health set up a drive-up system so getting the vaccine only took a couple of minutes. After receiving the vaccine, people went to a 15-minute monitoring location to see if anyone developed any serious side effects. The online process was as quick as the shot itself.

“I believe that vaccines have proven to be most effective way of decreasing symptoms for a virus like COVID-19 and may prevent actually getting the virus,” said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Makil. “As with any vaccine, there are some worries about possible side effects. As a first responder I read the information that was out there and listened to the doctors and made my choice to get it”

Chief Makil’s only symptom was a sore arm at the injection site. After 24 hours he experienced no additional after effects.

Healthcare personnel and emergency response teams are a top priority for receiving the COVID-19 vaccination because of their exposure to the virus and their critical role of keeping emergency services, health clinics and other critical health services functioning. Soon the vaccination will be available to other groups, such as elders, adults with health conditions and the general public. Information on Community COVID-19 vaccines will be disseminated as it becomes available.

## Facts About COVID-19 Vaccines

BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

Now that there is an authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, accurate vaccine information is critical. If you have questions about the vaccines please go to the Maricopa County website at: <https://www.maricopa.gov/5641/COVID-19-Vaccine#faq>

### FACT: COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19

None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. There are several different types of vaccines in development. However, the goal for each of them is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

### FACT: COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests

Vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States won't cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.

If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

### FACT: People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before.

At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person. Some early evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long.

We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works.

Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

### FACT: Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19

While many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness or they may even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you are not at increased risk of severe complications. If you get sick, you also may spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you while you are sick. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness.

### FACT: Receiving an mRNA vaccine will not alter your DNA

mRNA stands for messenger ribonucleic acid and can most easily be described as instructions for how to make a protein or even just a piece of a protein. mRNA is not able to alter or modify a person's genetic makeup (DNA). The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enter the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA are kept. This means the mRNA does not affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 vaccines that use mRNA work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop protection (immunity) to disease.

Continued from page 1

## SRPMIC Receives the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

cine began just before Christmas for healthcare workers and first responders, which included SRPMIC front-line workers.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine went through all the same regulatory processes that other vaccines do, except in this case all phases of human studies (or clinical trials) were overlapping instead of occurring one after the other. This allowed the vaccine to be developed in a much shorter time. To be fully effective, the vaccine will require two shots several weeks apart. The first dose is to prime the immune system and the second is a booster.

Both vaccines are using new technology to immunize the body against COVID-19. This technology involves using a molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) that is naturally found in our bodies to deliver information to our cells on how to fight the virus. Messenger RNA delivers the “blueprints” to our cells for how to make the proteins necessary for our bodies to perform their important functions. In this case, mRNA has been modified to tell our cells how to make the protein to recognize COVID-19 and prevent it from entering our cells and making us sick. Messenger RNA is quickly broken down by the body, so once the blueprints are delivered the modified mRNA from the vaccine disappears from the system.



(L) Registered Nurse-Community Health Delania Reynolds and Clinical Services Manager Marianne Bennett from the HHS Clinical Services Program unpack the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine shipment.

As we move into additional phases of administering the vaccine, it will be administered on SRPMIC lands by SRPMIC staff.

## COVID-19 Fraud is Rapidly Evolving

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Office of Inspector General

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is alerting the public about fraud schemes related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Scammers are using telemarketing calls, text messages, social media platforms, and door-to-door visits to perpetrate COVID-19-related scams. Fraudsters are offering COVID-19 tests, HHS grants, and Medicare prescription cards in exchange for personal details, including Medicare information. However, these services are unapproved and illegitimate.

These scammers use the coronavirus pandemic to benefit themselves, and beneficiaries face potential harm. The personal information collected can be used to fraudulently bill federal health care programs and commit medical identity theft.

### Protect Yourself

- Be vigilant and protect yourself from potential fraud concerning COVID-19 vaccines. You will not be asked for money to enhance your ranking for vaccine eligibility. Government and State officials will not call you to obtain personal information in order to receive the vaccine, and you will not be solicited door to door to receive the vaccine.
- Beneficiaries should be cautious of unsolicited requests for their personal, medical, and financial information. Medicare will not call beneficiaries to offer COVID-19 related products, services, or benefit review.
- Be suspicious of any unexpected calls or visitors offering COVID-19 tests or supplies. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately.
- Do not respond to, or open hyperlinks in, text messages about COVID-19 from unknown individuals.

- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments on social media sites. If you make an appointment for a COVID-19 test online, make sure the location is an official testing site.
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone claiming to offer HHS grants related to COVID-19.
- Be aware of scammers pretending to be COVID-19 contact tracers. Legitimate contact tracers will never ask for your Medicare number, financial information, or attempt to set up a COVID-19 test for you and collect payment information for the test.

**If you suspect COVID-19 health care fraud, report it immediately online or call 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477).**

# Behavioral Health Services Offering Telehealth Counseling Sessions

BY TASHA SILVERHORN  
O'odham Action News  
tasha.silverhorn2@srpmic-nsn.gov

Counseling can benefit those who may be struggling with their mental health during these times of uncertainty due to COVID-19. Because of the pandemic, more people are dealing with emotional difficulties and life challenges. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is offering telehealth sessions with a counselor to all SRPMIC members. These services help with grief, parenting, family struggles and couples counseling.

"Zoom with a Counselor" is a new service offered by BHS. It's a Zoom session open to all SRPMIC members and is held once a month.

Seeking mental health therapy used to carry a stigma; people would be embarrassed and didn't want others to know they were struggling. For the most part, that's no longer the case. Today, people understand the benefits of seeing a therapist to help them learn new skills and techniques such as stress management, coping skills and mindfulness activities like journaling. These techniques can help you feel more empowered and confident that you can take on the challenges that might be coming your way.

"A lot of our clients are dealing with financial stress and grief from COVID-19. We're all grieving in different ways; not only are we losing family and friends, but [our] whole lives are different," said Jessica Hunter, BHS manager for Adult and Family Services. "We have all types of counseling, from individual counseling for [stress management] to court-ordered counsel-

ing services." Counseling was done in person until COVID-19 made that impossible. "When [the Community] went to essential services, we were able to transition everything to Skype, Zoom or phone, including our group sessions,"

**"During this time, if you have a rough day and you just want to talk to someone, we're the perfect service right now for that," said Hunter.**

Hunter added.

In-person sessions are reserved for very acute cases, such as suicidal clients or people in crisis.

"We used to offer walk-ins for people who had something come up and they wanted to talk to a counselor right away," said Hunter. "Now we have the telehealth sessions for Community members, who can call in and talk to a counselor over the phone or video. They don't have to do the intake process, they can just call in and talk to a counselor who is available if they are having a bad day."

During the "Zoom with a Counselor" monthly group session, "Individuals log on to Zoom and listen. There are two counselors available who will answer questions, and participants can type in their questions. It's a good way to get to know our providers before scheduling a personal session," said Hunter. "You can see their face, get to know them and get a sense if you would want to talk to this person."

December's Zoom with a Counselor session covered COVID-19 stress, parenting during COVID-19 and grief.

Hunter explained that if people have other questions, they are welcome to ask the counselors. If someone decides to move forward with personal counseling sessions, he or she is welcome to call and schedule an appointment.

More than 20 counselors for adults and children are available for counseling services. The crisis counselors and Journey to Recovery services are still available to SRPMIC members who may need them. The telehealth sessions will continue even after services return to normal.

"One of the benefits of this learning curve for us is we have found that people like to do telehealth sessions," said Hunter. "Especially for those who are court-ordered, they have requirements to fulfill, and sometimes it's just not convenient to make it to an in-person session. So, the evening online groups where people can call in have been helpful."

Another service being offered is outreach services for COVID-19 patients. Those who test positive are offered counseling to help them through the period of quarantining and being separated from their family. When they have completed their quarantine, they are welcome to continue to talk to a counselor.

"During this time, if you have a rough day and you just want to talk to

someone, we're the perfect service right now for that," said Hunter.

The January "Zoom with a Counselor" telehealth session takes place on Thursday, January 14. To talk to a BHS counselor, call (480) 362-5707 and one of the medical support assistants will help you find a counselor. If you need immediate attention, a counselor will call you back as soon as possible that same day. Or you can leave a message and/or schedule an appointment.

**TO TALK TO A  
COUNSELOR  
CALL  
(480) 362-5707**

One of the medical support assistants will assist you in finding a counselor. If someone needs immediate attention a counselor will call you back as soon as possible that same day. Or you can leave a message and/or schedule an appointment.

**WE'RE YOUR  
— BIG —  
NIGHT OUT**



## We're Your Casino, Arizona.

Casino Arizona is more than a casino. It's familiar faces, unparalleled levels of comfort and it's always here when you're ready. No one knows you like we do.

SCOTTSDALE | 480.850.7777 | CASINOARIZONA.COM

Locally owned and caringly operated by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Please gamble responsibly.



# SRPMIC Requesting Community Input on Medical and Recreational Marijuana

BY TASHA SILVERHORN  
O'odham Action News  
tasha.silverhorn2@srpmic-nsn.gov

During December, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council representatives discussed the use of medical and recreational marijuana.

During the District "A" meeting with Council Representative Diane Enos on Monday, December 14, a number of SRPMIC members listened in via Skype and phone to hear a presentation given by Assistant General Counsel Jeff Harmon on the passing of the Arizona Proposition 207, the Marijuana Legalization Initiative, in the November election and what it means for the SRPMIC.

The passing of Arizona Proposition 207 has legalized recreational marijuana for anyone 21 and older. Harmon explained that although the proposition passed in the State of Arizona, marijuana is still illegal in the SRPMIC. At this point in time, the Community is not presenting any laws on this topic, but it wants to inform the members on what the legalizing of recreational use of marijuana means and get feedback from SRPMIC members regarding their opinions are on the topic.

The presentation on Medical and Recreational Marijuana Use was an opportunity to let the Council representatives know how you [SRPMIC members] feel on the topic and that might give them [Council] some good information on whether they should change the laws or not, explained Harmon. Currently, there are no plans to change anything, it's just an opportunity to get public feedback on this topic.

Again, this law that was passed for the State of Arizona does not apply within the boundaries of the Community. Regardless of what you hear, remember that marijuana in all forms and uses remains illegal in the SRPMIC. You cannot carry it, possess it, use it, sell it, transport it or give it away. It's a Class B offense, which is the Community's second-highest level of criminal offense, meaning anyone who is convicted can go to jail for up to one year and pay a fine of up to \$5,000.

"Something that not everyone knows is that our criminal laws only apply to SRPMIC members and other enrolled Native Americans," said Harmon. "Salt River Police Department officers have to be familiar with tribal, state and federal laws; a case of marijuana possession by a non-Native in the SRPMIC falls under the state law. Whatever the state law is, that's what that non-Native American would be subject to.

Generally, before November 30, 2020, marijuana cases were submitted to the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and they would handle that prosecution. If it was a Community member or Native American, it would be submitted to the Tribal Prosecutor's Office and be handled in Tribal Court. That goes back to federal Supreme Court case law which talks about criminal jurisdiction in tribal communities."

Not only is marijuana illegal within the boundaries of the SRPMIC, it's also prohibited in the workplace. Community employment policies prohibit drugs in the workplace, and that includes marijuana. The Human Resources Department can test for drugs in four different ways: through pre-employment screening, random testing, reasonable suspicion and if an employee is in an accident.

The pre-employment screening includes a background check and drug test. If someone comes up positive, their employment offer is withdrawn and that person is not able to work with the SRPMIC. Random testing is when employees would regularly be called in for a random drug test. The third reason why an employee may be tested is for reasonable suspicion, if a supervisor or someone else suspects that an employee may be under the influence alcohol or drugs. Fourth, employees who are in an accident on the job are automatically tested for drugs or alcohol.

"Those are the four ways that people get tested, and sometimes we get a test that comes back come positive for drugs, including marijuana. So be aware of that for future employment in the Community or if you're a current employee," said Harmon.

## What the Passing of Arizona Proposition 207 Means for the State

In 2010, the proposition allowing use of medical marijuana was passed in the State of Arizona. Arizonans with medical issues must see a doctor, get a recommendation, fill out the application and pay a fee to obtain a medical marijuana card. The card allows them to grow marijuana at home or go to a dispensary within the State of Arizona and purchase marijuana. It's still illegal to have marijuana within the boundaries of the SRPMIC even if you possess a valid medical marijuana card.

There are state restrictions for medical marijuana; for example, you cannot possess marijuana on a school bus, on school grounds, at a jail, on public transportation or in any public place; it's only to be kept and used in the

privacy of your own home. Although you can use it for medical purposes, employers are still allowed to make their own rules in regard to the use of marijuana.

In 2016, the proposition to legalize recreational marijuana use in the State of Arizona was on the ballot; it was close but failed to pass at that time, with voters voting and 49% Yes and 51% No. Over the last four years, many states have seen propositions to make marijuana legal for medical and/or recreational use. In 2020, Arizona's proposition passed, with the voters voting 60.03% Yes and 39.97% No.

"Now that the results have been certified, ... this law is in effect," said Harmon. "It is now legal to use marijuana in the State of Arizona. You do not need a medical marijuana card anymore and you can grow it at your home."

The sale of marijuana in Arizona carries a 16% sales tax under this new law. Funds raised from the tax will be going to things like the state's community college districts; municipal police, sheriff, police and fire departments; Arizona's Highway User Revenue Fund; and a new Justice Reinvestment Fund.

"That high tax will benefit the state of Arizona and ... it might benefit the Community as well," said Harmon. "A lot of the funding from taxes might be available through grants, so even though [marijuana remains illegal] in the Community and we don't directly get the sales tax money, our police and fire departments might be able to receive grants that are created because of the money that is coming in from those taxes, so we may be able to benefit from those funds in a secondary way."

One other major benefit from this proposition passing is the petition to expunge marijuana convictions. Marijuana-related crimes such as possession, consumption and cultivation can be expunged later in 2021, explained Harmon. Individuals with a marijuana offense will have the opportunity to petition the court for that criminal offense to be removed from their record.

"It will take some steps to get that off your record," said Harmon. "A marijuana charge is a class 6 felony, which is the lowest-level felony in the State of Arizona, but it's still a felony and it shows up on your record. It could have happened when you were 22 years old and you're now 40 years old, and it may still be affecting your ability to get a job. Or you have to explain that felony or address it every time you're going for employment."

Marijuana dispensaries are only

allowed to sell to individuals with medical marijuana cards. The Arizona Department of Health Services is given the authority and duty to regulate the state marijuana industry and is not allowing recreational marijuana dispensaries to open yet. The department will start accepting applications from current dispensaries who want to sell for recreational use in late January, February or March 2021. After that, new dispensaries will be able to apply to sell for recreational use, but those new business probably won't start popping up in the state until April, May, June or July 2021.

## Community-Member Feedback Could Open Up Options

The SRPMIC is asking for members' thoughts and opinions on medical and recreational marijuana. In the District "A" meeting there were some options discussed that the Community could decide in various ways such as through a Council decision, vote of the people or an initiative by the people to allow:

- Recreational use of marijuana in the Community, to mirror what the state is doing.
- Medical marijuana use in the Community, but no recreational use.
- Downgrading the level of criminal offenses for possession/use of marijuana by updating the criminal code of ordinances.
- Changing employment policies regarding marijuana by updating the Human Resources policy and testing procedures.
- Taking no action.

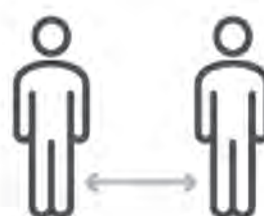
"I am really interested to know what the people think at this point, and because we are not at a formal comment phase, because we haven't set up a proposed change to our code that people could comment on, right now we're taking the temperature of the Community. We want to know what you all think," said Enos. "I put this topic on my personal Facebook page, and so have a few other Council representatives as well, and [we've received] a good amount of comments. I can see where the different comments come from different age groups and different concerns. I realize that we need good information and education on this topic so we can make a good decision that is right for us."

To share your input on this topic, please check the SRPMIC Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SRPMIC](http://www.facebook.com/SRPMIC) for upcoming district meeting dates where you can call in or join virtually through Skype.

CASES ARE RISING.  
**ACT NOW!**



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths across the United States are rising. Take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**NEW YEAR, NEW BENEFITS ... TAKE ADVANTAGE TODAY!**

**PIMADENTAL.COM**



**DR. SCHWARTZ  
DR. STANDAGE  
DR. SANTORO  
DR. WILLMAN**

**For Humana/AmeriBen holders**

**IN NETWORK! LOWEST COST  
FOR OUR SALT RIVER PATIENTS!**

Increase Your **Smile Power**

- EMERGENCIES seen the same day (Root Canals & Extractions)
- ROOT CANALS by Endodontist-Specialist
- Wisdom Teeth Extractions
- IMPLANTS to replace Missing Teeth
- INVISALIGN Orthodontic teeth straightening for Teens & Adults.
- Family, Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry
- Mercury free fillings & ceramic restorations
- Digital X-Rays (Less Radiation)
- FREE DENTURE CONSULTS (Humana covers a new set every 5 years)

**3 Hygienists  
available to  
clean your teeth**

**COME VISIT OUR NEW  
STATE OF THE  
ART OFFICE!**

**INVISALIGN  
\$1000 off**  
for Salt River Patients  
**FREE CONSULTATION**

**FREE CONSULTATION**  
\*WISDOM TEETH  
REMOVAL  
\*IMPLANT TOOTH  
REPLACEMENT

**Hours Open:**

**Monday - Thursday  
7:00 am-6:00 pm**

**Friday  
7:00 am-4:00 pm**

GO TO  
**www.PIMADENTAL.COM**  
to see for yourself.

**480.657.6357**

PIMA Dental Center for Family,  
Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry  
10850 N 90th ST | Scottsdale AZ 85260



# How Tribal Nations Are Handling the Pandemic Across the U.S.



Choctaw Health Center workers at The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians administer the COVID-19 vaccine to frontline healthcare workers. Photo credit to MBCI.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
O'odham Action News  
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. "Tribal nations have been a key part of our planning for the vaccine rollout so that American Indians and Alaska Natives will have equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they become available."

Here's how a few tribes are handling the vaccine distribution:

**Alaska Natives:** The federal government has allocated 11,700 doses of the vaccine to the Alaska Tribal Health System for distribution through Alaska Native IHS facilities.

**Montana Tribes:** According to the Great Falls Tribune, tribal communities in Montana such as the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Blackfoot Nation and Little Shell Tribe have elected to receive their vaccine allocations through the state, while all five of the state's urban Indian health centers and IHS sites went the federal route through IHS.

**The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians:** The tribe began its vaccination program at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 16, by administering the first vaccine injection to Sault Tribe Health Director Leo Chugunov, M.D. The first shipment of 185 doses, which arrived on December 15 in a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter, is intended for Health Division employees before being administered to critical personnel of the Sault Tribe (non-Health Division) and then Sault Tribe elders.

**The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians:** According to a Facebook post on December 16, the Choctaw Health Center (CHS) received its allotment

of the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine from IHS, making the CHS the first hospital in Neshoba County to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The first three doses were administered the next day, and the first 100 doses were given over the course of a couple days to frontline healthcare workers.

**The Navajo Nation:** As the vaccine becomes available in the coming weeks, COVID-19 cases are still rising across Indian Country. On December 16, the Navajo Department of Health reported 160 new positive cases and four deaths. The total number of deaths in Navajo Nation as of the morning of December 17 was 731, with 10,779 recoveries.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez said in a statement, "Officials with the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility indicated on Tuesday (December 15) that they are beginning to see a flattening of the curve in their region. This is very good news, but we have to keep our guard up and keep fighting. Stay home as much as possible, wear a mask, practice social distancing, avoid gatherings and crowds, and wash your hands often."

The vaccine was shipped to the Gallup, Chinle and Tuba City healthcare facilities at the beginning of the week of December 14. Nez said that by December 20, all 3,900 doses were administered to nursing home staff, first responders and elders, with the rest of the population receiving initial doses by late spring 2021.

For information on the vaccine here in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, see articles on pages 1 and 3.

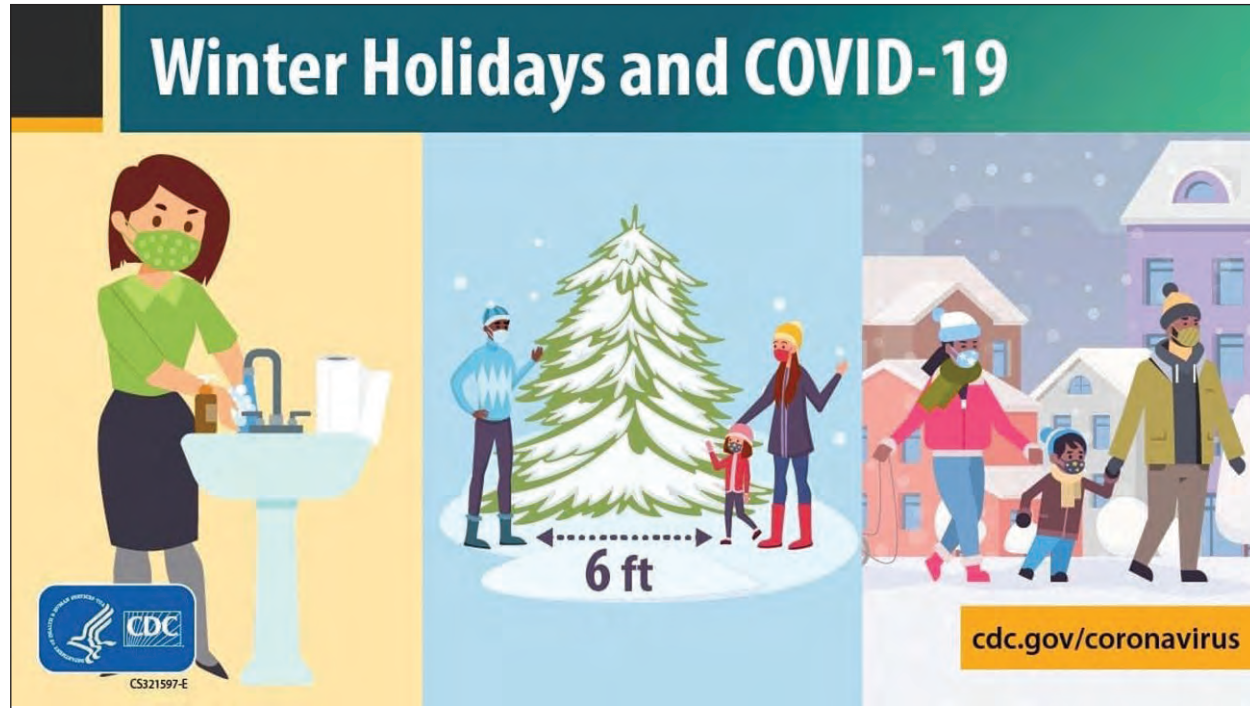
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study on December 17 which shows that American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) have a death rate from COVID-19 at 1.8 times greater than non-Hispanic whites, based on data from 14 participating states.

According to the study, there is excess risk, especially for AI/AN males and persons ages 20 to 49 years.

In its November 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccine Plan, the Indian Health Service (IHS) stated that AI/AN populations across the country have infection rates more than 3.5 times higher than non-Hispanic whites and are more than four times more likely to be hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

IHS is currently implementing the plan across the country, allocating the Pfizer vaccine to tribal communities either through state or federal channels.

"By offering Indian health providers a choice in how COVID-19 vaccines are delivered, the Trump Administration will ensure that vaccines are effectively delivered throughout Indian Country in ways that make sense for tribal communities," said Health



## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



For Thanksgiving, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Social Services Kinship Program collaborated with Bashas' grocery stores to provide a choice of a boxed meal or a Bashas' store voucher for 50 families. The meal came with a turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and a pie. Meals went to kinship families with adult caregivers who are typically blood relatives of the children they take care of. The Kinship Program is actively recruiting foster parents and held a virtual orientation with the Community on December 16. "We need men, fathers and grandfathers who are willing to open their heart and home to help us foster or mentor our teenage young men," said Norma Hernandez, MSW, foster/kinship/adoption/guardianship licensing manager. Chris Picciuolo, O'odham Action News.



(480) 827-2710

## MAIN STREET Motors

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Start the new year out right with a quality used car from Main Street Motors

**No Credit Required**  
**Affordable Prices**  
**Quality Pre-Owned**  
**Payment Options**  
**Mechanic On-Site**  
**\$300 Referral Fee**

**Main Street Motors**  
554 W. Main Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

Search our entire inventory at  
[www.mainstreetmotorsinc.com](http://www.mainstreetmotorsinc.com)

## Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic

**COVID-19 cases and deaths are rising across the United States. We all must remain vigilant. The changes we have had to make to routines and daily life are extremely hard, but these changes are even more important now and in the future. We must stop the spread of this new and dangerous virus. The more steps you and your family can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the safer you will be.**

## Information on the 2020 1099 Forms

The 2020 1099 forms will be distributed entirely by mail. Forms will be mailed out no later than January 31, 2021 to the last known address on file with the SRPMIC Enrollment Office. The Per Capita will appear on the 1099-MISC form as in the past. There is a new form for 2020 called the 1099-NEC for services such as day labor, catering or other services provided to the Community. If you provided service to the Community you will receive two separate forms, 1099-NEC (Services) & 1099-MISC (Per Capita). If you have moved or are not sure if your address is current with the Finance Office, please contact the SRPMIC Enrollment Office at (480) 362-7330/7600.

# The Native Plants in My Garden



BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
O'odham Action News  
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

In a new ProPublica and Rhodium Group study, six of Arizona's counties are among the top 100 most at risk of being uninhabitable in the nation in the next 20 to 40 years due to climate change. Pinal County is listed as the second most at-risk, while Maricopa County is ranked number 92.

If you are a gardener, you have probably noticed that the extended periods of excessive heat and drought have affected your plantings. In 2019, I noticed that the Smoik Hu:ñ (Tohono O'odham 60-day corn) took longer than usual to sprout up in my garden.

This summer I had plans to grow a low-desert monsoon garden full of na-

tive plants, but the pandemic had other plans for me. I moved from a ground-level condo where I had a patio garden in the dirt all to myself to a third-floor condo with very little outdoor space. So, I decided to rent out a few garden plots at Mesa Urban Garden in downtown Mesa and try a monsoon garden there, with the only plots available being in half sun.

With my big box of seeds, I went to work, waiting for the monsoon to bless the garden out in the heat. As we all know, the monsoon didn't show up this summer, and I had to use a water timing system instead. Because I waited for rain, the pinacate tepary beans, a drought-tolerant bean from an arid runoff farm in the Sierra El Pinacate Protected Zone in Mexico, had a late start and suffered.

With the timer, I was able to control how much water would drip and for how long. I grew Smoik Hu:ñ and calabaza de las Aguas squash, traditionally planted by the Tarahumara people at the bottom of Copper Canyon in Mexico. The Yori Muni cowpeas from the Guarijio people of the Rio Mayo watershed in Sonora, Mexico, produced a bountiful harvest. I also planted bulbs

of I'toi Sivol, or Tohono O'odham onions. The name "I'toi" signifies the Elder Brother, who is the creator deity in Tohono O'odham legends.

My most prized success from the summer came from a surprise seed that started late in the shaded garden plot. I thought the critters had eaten all the seeds, but I came back to the garden

after a couple of weeks and noticed that I suddenly had a plant that was 3 feet tall. After reaching at least 7 feet high, this gorgeous plant blossomed with shades of pink and red and green grape-like pigment. During the second week of December, the amaranth was ready to harvest. I cut the plant at the top and have been leaving it out in the sun to dry so I can collect the seeds, which are high in protein, fiber and iron.

With two new garden plots in the full sun, the cool season is being kind to the Salt River Pima peas climbing up an A-frame that I built, and the Chamisal Quelites Verdes mountain spinach from Taos, New Mexico, and Magdalena Acelgas (chard) from Magdalena, Sonora, are looking great so far. Spring is around the corner and a delicious harvest awaits.



New Mexico Amaranth being propped up, pointing east toward the sun.



Sonoran Yori Muni cowpeas, or Peta Muni, grew like a vine and produced purple flowers before the peas showed up. Rare in the wild, the peas are dry-farmed on slopes or irrigated on floodplains.



Leaves from a young Salt River Pima pea plant. The peas will continue to climb during winter months. These seeds are currently only available right now through the Native American Seed Request at Native Seeds Search, which provides access to traditional seeds for Indigenous people. Head to: [www.nativeseeds.org/pages/native-american-seed-request](http://www.nativeseeds.org/pages/native-american-seed-request)

## We love to see you SMILE!

# \$1,000 OFF

## FULL BRACES OR INVISALIGN

Offer good for SRPMIC Community Members and SRPMIC Employees



Jack G. Wright DDS CAGS  
Specialist in Orthodontics

Most Insurance Accepted  
Financing Available

# WRIGHT

## Orthodontics

WrightOrtho.com

### Orthodontics for Children & Adults

**SAN TAN VALLEY**  
36413 N. Gantzel Rd.  
SE of Banner Ironwood Hospital  
**480-284-8824**

**MESA**  
453 W. 5th St.  
Country Club & University  
**480-835-0567**

**EAST MESA**  
1118 N. Val Vista Rd.  
SW Corner of Brown & Val Vista  
**480-969-1514**

**CHANDLER**  
4055 W. Chandler Blvd., Suite 1  
Just west of Chandler Fashion Mall  
**480-753-6300**

\* One coupon per person after usual and customary fees. Some restrictions apply, see office for complete details. New patients only. Must present coupon at initial consultation.



# SRPMIC Employee Holiday Program

most “special” holiday sweater won an Echo Dot smart speaker or a T-shirt. The second game was movie trivia. Employees had to send in their answers to questions about classic holiday movies. The third game was a candy-cane guessing game. A picture was sent out



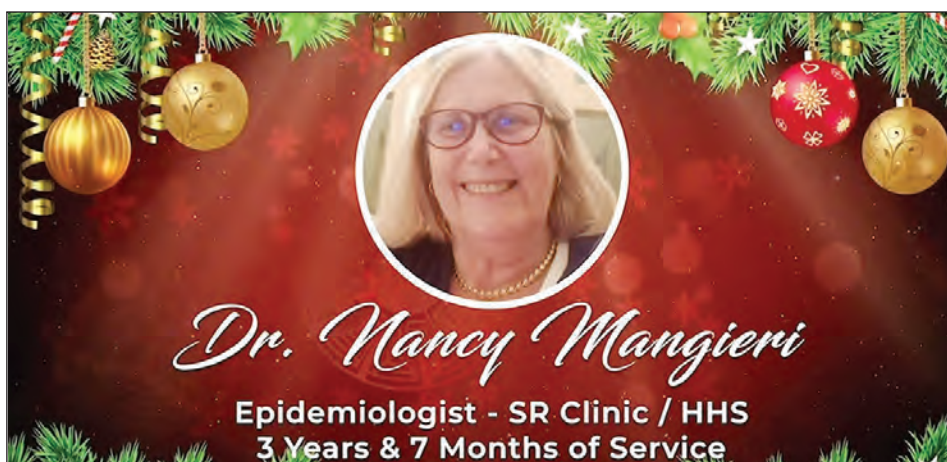
showing all angles of a glass jar filled with peppermint candy canes, and the employees had to guess how many canes were in the jar. The ones who came closest would win a Ghirardelli

travel mug, hot cocoa mix and holiday bag of Ghirardelli Squares. The final game was a virtual scavenger hunt, with employees having to carefully analyze the SRPMIC Virtual Program video that went live and answer questions that pertained to the video.

The SRPMIC Virtual Program broadcast went live at noon and included

a message from SRPMIC President Martin Harvier. The “Band of the Bosses” made their debut, singing “We Are The World”—all the department managers came together dressed up as artists like Bob Dylan, Diana Ross and Tina Turner to lip-sync together as one. The Employee of the Year award went to Dr. Nancy Mangieri, epidemiologist with the Salt River Clinic at Health and Human Services, for her hard work and dedication to the health of the Community this year.

“I certainly would like to thank everyone that is working in the Community to stop the spread of COVID,” Dr. Mangieri said. “I would absolutely like to thank Tribal Council and all of the staff for working together to try to bring prevention into the Community. This is an award that’s not just for me, this is an award that represents all of the people working so hard to keep the Community safe. Thank you so much for selecting me, it is really an honor.”



Dr. Mangieri understands her role is to protect and serve the Community. She has sacrificed her time and energy in that endeavor. She is always patient in explaining complex medical issues and terminology in a way that is easy for people to understand. She personally talks to Community members to check on their health status during their recovery.

# Healthy Ways to Cope with Grief and Loss



BY TASHA SILVERHORN  
O’odham Action News  
tasha.silverhorn2@srpmic-nsn.gov

In a small community such as the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, where we are all pretty much related, our cousins are like our siblings and our neighbors are family. It’s hard when we lose anyone, but it’s especially hard when we lose someone from our Community. As the COVID-19 pandemic has spread across the world and our Community, we have lost many family members. And until people are vaccinated to help reduce the chance of getting the virus, we may experience more loss in the future, causing more grief.

There are ways to cope with grief and loss, and SRPMIC Behavioral Health Services offers resources to help Community members get through these tough times. They have one-on-one counseling sessions and virtual group counseling sessions, and you can find

tips on the Community’s social media page for how to cope with grief and loss.

People handle grief in different ways, but if you are having trouble coping with the loss of a loved one, here are some tips to help you:

- Create a memory box to preserve the memories of your loved one.
- Reflect on fond memories of time spent with your loved one.
- Plant a tree or flower in honor of your loved one.
- Let your emotions be expressed and released—have a good cry.
- Talk about it when you can with another loved one or friend, or with a counselor.
- Keep a journal about the memories you have of your loved one.

Finding healthy ways to cope with grief and loss alone or as a family can help you heal, be present and move forward. For more information on BHS counseling, call (480) 362-5707.

WIC is still

*Open*



All services available remotely via phone



Salt River Pima Maricopa  
Indian Community WIC Program  
**480.362.7300**  
10005 E. Osborn Rd., Bldg. #11  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

[itcaonline.com/WIC](http://itcaonline.com/WIC)  
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## River People Health Center Construction Employment Job Fair **POSTPONED**



SUBMITTED BY STEVE POKRZYWKA  
Construction Management, Division Manager  
SRPMIC Engineering and Construction Services

The construction employment job fair planned for January 14 has been postponed until it can be scheduled in a safer environment for all participants. Although Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s Engineering and Construction Services, contractor Arviso-Okland, and SRPMIC Human Resources have postponed the job fair, we continue to encourage Community members seeking employment in construction work to inquire with Russell Williams at SRPMIC Human Resources, (480) 362-6623, mobile (602) 476-4431, or by e-mail at Russell.Williams@SRPMIC-nsn.gov, to coordinate their skills match with upcoming subcontractors looking to hire.

The River People Health Center construction project at McDowell Road and the Beeline Highway continues work, including various trades, over the next year. The project is seeking Community-member trade workers and general laborers who are interested in employ-

ment through one of many subcontractors performing work.

As the River People Health Center construction work continues, the General contractor Arviso-Okland and their subcontractors are practicing daily preventative measures that include wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and establishing standard work procedures, safely distancing to execute the work, and constant monitoring.

Some of the upcoming work includes framing, drywall, painting, building interiors, flooring, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, low voltage, site work, utilities, grading, drainage, landscaping and general labor. All work is eligible for Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates.

We are respectful of the Community’s active role in limiting gatherings of 10 persons or more during these maximum mitigation efforts while utilizing the Community’s facilities. Once the Community moves from Essential Services to Phase 1 (high mitigation efforts), we will reconsider a time and date to accommodate the job fair.



# "Parched" Documentary Features Indigenous Artist Perspectives on Water Rights

"From this sacred mountain, I see desiccated lands replete with uranium-poisoned wells, strangled rivers, aquifer depletion, dying horses and dry fields," said Benally. "I see golf courses, waterparks, wastewater snow and glistening swimming pools. I seek to disrupt the flow of whitewashed pretenses and confront the ongoing legacy of colonial violence that views water as an exploitable commodity."

The film also touches on the Phoenix valley and how water has been rerouted from rivers and streams to build the city while many communities suffer from drought where water once ran freely.

There are plans to stream Parched across the state in the next year. For more information on the artists and the documentary, go to <https://flagartsCouncil.org/2020/05/parched/>.



Post-documentary premiere Zoom interview session from December 10 with artists, filmmakers and exhibition coordinators from "Parched." Photos are screenshots from the zoom meeting.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
O'odham Action News  
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

On December 10, a new documentary called Parched premiered on YouTube about the creation of the art exhibition Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest, which explores the role of climate change and increasing demands for water in shaping culture, land and animal habitat.

The documentary was produced by the Center for Ecosystem Science and Society at Northern Arizona University in collaboration with the Flagstaff Arts Council, with funding support from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Science Foundation and Arizona Humanities.

Nine regional artists participated in the art project, which began as an education program led by environmental advocates and scientists. The artists spent a year creating the artwork after a comprehensive tour of streams, protected land, and the flora and fauna surrounding bodies of water throughout the state of Arizona. The exhibition has a home at the Coconino Center for the Arts in Flagstaff.

According to the Flagstaff Arts Council, Parched highlights how social and cultural inequalities are manifested through current water policies and practices. Due to the exhibition being closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the documentary film allows



Artist Klee Benally is interviewed on the "Parched" documentary with a portion of his exhibit in the background.

for viewers to hear the voices of the artists, scientists and community leaders and gain an inside perspective on the exhibition from home.

Among the participating artists are Indigenous tribal members, including Klee Benally (Diné), Marie Gladue (Diné-Black Mesa, Edgewater Clan) and Glory Tacheenie-Campoy (Diné-Tall Tower and Deer Spring Water clans).

Benally's powerful exhibit includes a traditional Navajo weaving rug pattern with a video being projected through the middle of it, portraying how culture and life can be destroyed by the lack of adequate water.



Another part of Klee Benally's art exhibit, with Navajo words to emphasize his views on colonial violence and water exploitation.



Artist Marie Gladue performs during her video art exhibit. Marie's video displays her unique style of interpretive art.

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



After the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community cancelled their annual Holiday Festivities which included a Christmas Program and Light Parade due to the COVID-19 pandemic; a group of SRPMIC members organized the Salt River Christmas Joy Ride light parade to spread holiday cheer. SRPMIC members were invited to participate in the parade by coming out and decorating their cars with lights or any holiday decorations. And SRPMIC families were invited to come out to their yards or park on the side of the road if their home was not along the route of the parade and watch from their vehicles. The parade cruised through Salt River bringing joy to many families on Saturday, December 19, 2020. Tasha Silverhorn, O'odham Action News.



## SRPMIC COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE

Testing results as of 1/4/2021

SRPMIC COVID-19 Information	Enrolled Residents	Enrolled Non-Residents	Non-Enrolled Residents	Non-Enrolled / Non-Residents	Total	All Residents	All Enrolled
Completed Tests	6187	1630	953	2353	11123	7140	7817
Positive	712	190	125	253	1280	837	902
Negative	5353	1413	809	2049	9623	6162	6766
Currently Hospitalized	8	1	1	1	11	9	9
Recovered	604	172	108	218	1102	712	776
Active Cases	84	9	10	33	136	94	93
Deaths	24	8	6	0	38	30	32

\*Numbers may change based on verification of address and enrollment

\*\* Additional testing data has been provided by an external partner [ dating back August 19 ]

\*\*\* COVID-19 Results Round Up will go live week of Sept. 14 increasing data collection with individuals self-reporting

## O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
JAN. 21	JAN.8
FEB. 4	JAN. 22
FEB. 18	FEB.5
MAR. 4	FEB. 19

SEND INFORMATION TO DODIE MANUEL at [dodie.manuel@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:dodie.manuel@srpmic-nsn.gov) OR TASHA SILVERHORN at [tasha.silverhorn@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:tasha.silverhorn@srpmic-nsn.gov)  
For more information please call (480) 362-7750.



If you have a story idea, please contact Tasha Silverhorn at (480) 362-7731

# SRPMIC Member Artist Phillip Smith

BY MARISSA JOHNSON  
O'odham Action News  
marissa.johnson2@srpmic-nsn.gov

the Community now—for example cotton, the burden basket and storage basket. Those are pretty much the main ones I work with.”

While he was studying at SCC, a job opportunity arose as a teacher's aide for the Salt River Schools Art Department. Smith would teach the students how to make storage baskets and weave sash belts. He was always amazed at how his students were very hands-on and quick to learn. After that, another position opened up, for a language and culture specialist. Doing his research and gathering all his resources, Smith began writing and compiling all he could to prepare for the job. He got that job, and he has been teaching ever since. He taught the 7th- and 8th-grade students the orthography of the O'odham language, making sure they understood their vowels and the grammar basics.

When the COVID-19 lockdown began, Smith posted more of the language and history on his Instagram account. Because he couldn't see his students and teach his classes as he had before, this gave him a way to continue to teach through social media. Smith wanted to continue to share the cultural knowledge he has accumulated over the years, and social media brings this style of teaching to a whole new audience.

Smith explained how he felt when he started posting. “I was very hesitant at first,” he said. “I've been on social media for about four years now. I was very hesitant to post anything when it came to cultural stuff. It was always because I wasn't too

sure how people would react to it. Once I started to get into the traditional part, showing traditional craft or giving a little bit of information, [I am] now posting a lot of history and language information. There's kind of this sense that it's within the Community, but then on social media it's very public, so anybody can see it. But then I began to realize that many of the people who had begun to follow me and ask questions were mostly Community members, as well as other O'odham from Gila River, Ak-Chin and Tohono O'odham. So, it was very good to see that they were interested in what I had to offer. It was definitely reassuring.”

Smith always makes sure to give credit to those who passed on the culture to him. He learned to make the burden basket from Royce Manuel and the Piipaash beaded cape from Gretchen Howard. He says his house is now a workshop/studio filled with raw material waiting to be turned into art.

“I always tell myself I know a lot or I know how-to things, but even at this point I wouldn't call myself a master of any of the traditional crafts just yet,” Smith said. “I know how to do it, but again I'm still learning myself. I'm still trying to teach others as I'm continuing to learn techniques. I want to make sure that I have something for everyone to partake in.”

You can follow Smith on Instagram @bearhand2118.



SRPMIC member Phillip Smith.



Burden basket Smith made.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Phillip Smith is known as a local artist and a language and culture specialist for Salt River Schools. His artistry first began when he was a child, starting with mostly pencil and ink artwork. As he got older, he continued his craft, and he is now working in digital media. Studying at Scottsdale Community College, he took many art classes to hone his skills and gain more improvement in the styles of realism, cartoon and anime.

“Apart from contemporary artwork, which is mostly two dimensional,” Smith said, “in my early 20s I became interested in traditional crafts through the O'odham Piipaash Language Program. They had classes, and I took any one I could get into. From there I honed



my skills, learning anything I could. Over the years I've been able to become very proficient in most of them, [including] regular basketry, textile weaving, cotton, shell work, a little pottery. Mostly crafts that are not as common in

## STEPS TO TAKE IF EXPOSED TO COVID-19 DURING A HOLIDAY GATHERING

BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
<https://www.cdc.gov/>

**If you are exposed to COVID-19 at a holiday gathering, while traveling, or at any time, quarantine yourself to protect others by doing the following:**

- The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home for 14 days if you think you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.
- Stay away from others, especially people who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Consider getting tested for COVID-19. Even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should still stay home (quarantine) for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. This is because symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus, and some infected people never have symptoms but are still contagious.
- Do not travel until 14 days after your last possible exposure.

**If you can't completely stay away from others during the 14 days:**

- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) away from other people.
- Wear a mask that covers both the mouth and nose when you are

around other people or animals, including pets (even at home).

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Monitor yourself and household members for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Get information about COVID-19 testing if you feel sick.

If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days of the event or celebration, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or if you test positive for COVID-19, immediately notify the host and others who attended. They may need to inform other attendees about their possible exposure to the virus. Contact your healthcare provider and follow the CDC-recommended steps for what to do if you become sick, and follow the public health recommendations for community-related exposure.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, a public health worker may contact you to check on your health and ask you who you have been in contact with and where you've spent time in order to identify and provide support to people (contacts) who may have been infected. Your information will be confidential.

## Salt River Schools Rolls Out Microsoft Teams



Students at Salt River Schools use computer technology like Microsoft Teams to help make learning from home during the pandemic successful.

Photo courtesy Salt River Schools

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
O'odham Action News  
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

Microsoft Teams is coming to Salt River Schools after months of planning by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Information Technology staff, Professional Development and Salt River Schools staff.

The process started in mid-March, and around August, when school was supposed to start, Microsoft Teams was approved for use. In the meantime, students have been distance-learning with packets while teachers come in shifts to make sure there is no violation of Community ordinance regarding how many people can be on-site.

Microsoft Teams is a digital collaboration platform that allows for workspace chat, file storage and videoconferencing, among many other uses, which is particularly useful during socially distanced learning.

This new system requires a great deal

of training, so Salt River Schools staff have been getting everything ready for a smooth rollout. “We wanted to make sure we had a product that could meet the needs of our students, our staff and our families,” said Cynthia Clary, acting superintendent for Salt River Schools.

“The transition took longer than anticipated, because it's very important as a school in the Community that we're following all the tribal guidelines and making sure we're in compliance with other statutes like the Indian Child Welfare Act,” she said. “We're making sure that our students, and corresponding data to our students, are protected in accordance with tribal governance.”

On the Salt River Schools website, specialized support for families was offered from December 7 to 17, with open question sessions provided by the Salt River Elementary School Eagles Club.

Quick-help guides for the platform can be found at [www.saltriverschools.org/news/what\\_s\\_new/msteams2020](http://www.saltriverschools.org/news/what_s_new/msteams2020).

# Journey to Wellness 2020 in Review

SUBMITTED BY ELISSA CASTON,  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
SRPMIC Diabetes Prevention Services

During the week of November 16-20, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Diabetes Prevention Services team contracted with FitnessFest to host the fifth annual Journey to Wellness event. Almost 200 Community members and/or employees and their families participated in the week-long virtual sessions. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all sessions were presented using Zoom so that the event could still take place.

The week kicked off with a live cooking demonstration featuring Santa Fe-based Native chef Lois Ellen Frank. Chef Frank guided participants through two recipes: Red Chile Sauce and Blue Corn Mush. She offered ways to modify the dishes, explained the history of the ingredients and preparation, and provided tips for incorporating new tastes in daily cooking. Participants were provided with the ingredients and grocery list ahead of time so they could be ready to prepare the dishes along with chef Frank. The participation and feedback from this session was the highest of the week!

Tuesday's session was an informative presentation/workout on resistance training with SRPMIC fitness trainer Dion Begay. The first 100 participants to register received Stroops resistance tubing, and all other registrants were instructed ahead of time to grab their tubing if they had it available. The session began with a well-explained background on resistance training, its effects on the body, contraindications, options for different fitness levels, and step-by-step use. Begay then led the group through an invigorating workout using the resistance bands and followed up with a Q&A.

Wednesday offered the Expert Panel Power Hour. Specific, important health questions from the registered participants were collected prior to the session and the panel had time to prepare their answers.

Panel members included nurse and certified diabetes educator Jennell Clark, registered dietitian MaryLynn Marshburn, nurse practitioner Christina Interpreter, fitness trainer Dion Begay, therapist Jessica Hunter and pharmacist Robert Boyle. Topics covered were weight loss, dieting, diabetes, exercise techniques, self-care, medication options, mental health and motivation.

There were two Journey to Wellness sessions on Thursday. The evening began with a core workout using Bender Balls with creator Leslee Bender. The first 100 to register had a Bender Ball on hand, and Bender suggested options for those who did not receive one, such as using a small ball or pillow. Bender instructed participants on ways to stretch and strengthen their bodies, as well as the importance of staying active and mobile.

Holistic nutritionist Stephanie Kreun presented the second session on Thursday, which was a kid-friendly snack-food demonstration. All kids who were pre-registered received ingredients prior to the session so they could fix the snack along with Kreun. She also provided a wealth of information on ingredient alternatives, "upgrades" to make on traditional snacks, and how whole foods benefit youth development.

The final session of the week featured SPIDERFit Kids founder Brett Kilka. "Coach Brett" got the whole family up and moving with fun games and challenges that can be done inside or outside the home. All kids that were preregistered received jump ropes and cones to use in this session.

All registered attendees received a goodie bag prior to the event. In addition to the "First 100" items mentioned above, all participants received aprons, cookbooks, printed resources and sanitizer.

Journey to Wellness organizers are honored and proud to continue to bring awareness to diabetes-related topics by providing useful information and engaging activities. More information and resources,

including videos of all six sessions, can be found at [FitnessFest.org/journeytowellness](https://FitnessFest.org/journeytowellness).

The Diabetes Prevention Services team continues to support your personal Journey to Wellness. To learn more about our virtual group exercise sessions, email [Dion.Begay@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:Dion.Begay@srpmic-nsn.gov) to join the email list for virtual workouts. Email Tara John to learn more about the virtual workshops on healthy living at [Tara.John@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:Tara.John@srpmic-nsn.gov). Contact the Diabetes Prevention Services team if you have other questions, at [DiabetesPreventionServices@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:DiabetesPreventionServices@srpmic-nsn.gov).

## RAFFLE WINNERS

Prizes were raffled off at the end of each session with the people who were in attendance online. Winners were as follows:

### Monday

Basket: Seneca Peters  
Grill & Cookbook: Beverly Stanley

### Tuesday

Gym Bag & Roller: Diane Smith  
Massage Gun: Mary Miguel

### Wednesday

Grill & Cookbook: Lisa Loya  
Crockpot: Edward Pacer Reina

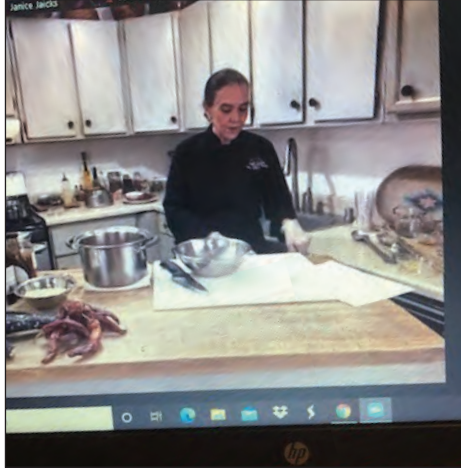
### Thursday

Adults/Air fryer: Chrissy Washington  
Crockpot: Melissa Rave  
Kids/Drone & Basketball: Pankaj Prasher

### Friday

Drone & Basketball: Annette Thurman-Ross

**GRAND PRIZE** (all session attendance)  
iPad: Delola Medina



Santa Fe-based Native chef Lois Ellen Frank's demonstration was a popular session.



SPIDERFit Kids founder Brett Kilka got the entire family up and moving.



Holistic nutritionist Stephanie Kreun presented a kid-friendly snack-food demonstration.



Journey to Wellness Zoom participants.

## January

**Challenge yourself to a healthier January:**

- Drink zero sugary beverages
- Sleep at least 7 to 8 hours a day
- Try a new recipe
- Try a workout posted to Facebook by the Physical Fitness Specialists

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No	9 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	SUN	SAT
10 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only got ___ hours	11 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only got ___ hours	12 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only got ___ hours	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only got ___ hours	14 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only got ___ hours	15 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only got ___ hours	16 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/> No, I only got ___ hours
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
17 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	18 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	19 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	20 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	21 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	22 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	23 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
24 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	25 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	26 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	27 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	28 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	29 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No	30 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No
31 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I tried... <input type="checkbox"/> No						

Physical Fitness Specialists

Did you try a new workout?

Diabetes Prevention Services

If you would like more information about healthy living, please contact Tara John, the Community Health Educator for Diabetes Prevention Services.  
Email: [Tara.John@SRPMIC-nsn.gov](mailto:Tara.John@SRPMIC-nsn.gov)

## Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic What to Do If You're Sick

- \* Stay home except to get medical care. Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and recover at home without medical care.
- \* Isolate yourself from other members of your family to prevent spread to them and the people that they may have contact with, like grandparents.
- \* If you have to leave isolation, wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from others, wash your hands frequently, and clean all touched surfaces.
- \* Even if you don't feel sick, you can spread COVID-19 to others. Be sure that you protect everyone as though they are the most fragile person in your family.
- \* Get care immediately if you are having emergency warning signs, like trouble breathing, pain or pressure in chest.

**Be a Hero. Stay Zero.**

Help eliminate household-to-household visitations. Stop the spread of the virus in Salt River.

#ShieldUpSaltRiver

**LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

**\*\*COVID-19\*\***

**Sixth Directive AMENDED - December 16, 2020  
SAFE GATHERINGS -- Church Services**

TO PROTECT AND DEFEND THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE ONK AKIMEL O'ODHAM AND XALYCHIDOM PIIPAASH, RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY EMPLOYEES, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY BY AMENDING SECTION 4 OF THE FIRST DIRECTIVE ISSUED ON APRIL 1, 2020 TO AUTHORIZE GATHERINGS FOR CERTAIN IMPORTANT TRADITIONAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY.

VID-19 with 7,358 deaths in the state, and, within the Community 627 cases of COVID-19 have been identified and 24 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time, the Community desires to amend the public gatherings restriction within the Community and provide limited exceptions for important traditional, cultural and religious functions for church services or worship, subject to certain important conditions.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the SRPMIC Local Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 of March 18, 2020, I along with the Council, hereby issue an amended Sixth Directive for the Community that rescinds and replaces Section 4 of the First Directive of April 1, 2020 as follows:

1. Throughout the Community there will be no public gatherings, in-person meetings of any kind, services, programs, etc. of 10 people or more. Exceptions and clarifications to this directive are below:

- a. Traditional Onk Akimel O'odham or Xalychidom Piipaash funeral services, and all gravesite services may exceed more than 10 people up to a safe and reasonable number of people.
  - b. If necessary to ensure that the functions of public health and safety continue, Community government departments are exempt from this meeting restriction.
  - c. Regular weekly church and worship services may continue in an appropriate, limited and safe manner.
  - d. For each exception, the family, organization or person holding the event shall ensure physical distancing of individuals by a minimum of 6 feet, and face coverings for all persons age 7 and older.
2. Memorial Hall and Xalychidom Piipaash Nyvaash remain closed until further notice.
  3. If the Community provides limited governmental facilities and services (generally the use of bathrooms), all

persons must follow directions from Community staff to ensure the health and safety of the staff and attendees.

4. Church facilities, homes or buildings cannot hold wake services or funeral services within the Community until further notice.
5. All other provisions of the First Directive of April 1, 2020, and all other SRPMIC Directives remain in effect.

This directive shall be effective immediately and shall remain in place until notice of repeal or revision.

December 16, 2020

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Martin Harvier, President

Attest:  
Erica Harvier, Secretary

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 virus pandemic continues to infect persons globally, nationally, state-wide and within the Community; and although the COVID-19 virus infection rate has fluctuated since the First Directive was issued, it remains a serious threat to the health and safety of the Community and its members and guests; and

**WHEREAS**, as of December 14, 2020 the Arizona Department of Health Services and local public health departments have identified 420,248 cases of CO-

# Proposed Amendments to the Community's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, Division 1, Preamble to Enterprises, Sec. 1-35, Authorization

**Comment Period: 12/9/2020 – 2/6/2021**

## Public Comments on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 1, Section 1-35 Of the Community's Code of Ordinances

**Comment Period: 12/9/2020 – 2/6/2021**

On Wednesday, December 9, 2020, the SRPMIC Council authorized a 60 day public comment period for the proposed amendments to the Community's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, Division 1, Preamble to Enterprises, Sec. 1-35, Authorization. The draft ordinance does the following:

The revised Section 1-35 further clarifies the legal relationship of all enterprises of the Community. The intent of the revisions are to clarify that all enterprises of the Community are entitled to the privileges and immunities of the Community.

Please submit comments to OGC by one of the following options:

1. By the Community's intranet "Ordinance Public Comment" page
2. By email to OrdPublicComment@SRPMIC-nsn.gov
3. By phone call (480) 362-7450 and leave a detailed message
4. By mail send your written comments to OGC, ATTN: Ordinance Public Comments, 10005 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85256

Community law, Sec. 1-35 shall govern over any conflicting language in any ordinance, company documents, bylaws, or any other document relating to all Community enterprises.

(2) From time to time the Community Council has adopted ordinances to organize enterprises, some of which include:

- a. Ordinance SRO-258-2000, established the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community Schools as "a division of the Community."
- b. Ordinance SRO-363-2010, established the Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises as "a division of the Community."
- c. Ordinance SRO-237-1998, established the Salt River Community Housing Division as "a division of the Community."
- d. Ordinance SRO-339-2008, established the Salt River Commercial Landfill Company as "a division of the Community."
- e. Ordinance SRO-172-1994, established the Phoenix Cement Company as "a division of the Community."
- f. Ordinance SRO-266-2000, established the Salt River Community Property Development and Asset Management Company as "a division of the Community."
- g. Ordinance SRO-276-2001, established the Saddleback Communications Company as "a division of the Community."
- h. Ordinance SRO-168-1993, established the Salt River Sand and Rock Company as "a division of the Community."
- i. Ordinance SRO-350-2009, established the Salt River Community Golf Enterprises as "a division of the Community."
- j. Ordinance SRO-311-2006, established the Salt River Financial Services Institution as "an institution of the Community."
- k. Ordinance SRO-370-2011, established Salt River Fields at Talking Stick as "a subordinate economic enterprise of Community."

(3) The Community is the exclusive owner of the enterprises listed in subsection (2) of this section and of its wholly owned Community limited liability companies, and these ~~each~~ enterprises acts for the exclusive benefit of the Community and, with the exception of housing, schools, and the Salt River Financial Services Institute, the

Community is the exclusive recipient of enterprise funds in excess of the operating needs.

(4) The Community and its wholly owned divisions, wholly owned Community limited liability companies, and other majority owned Community-owned entities ~~enterprises~~ have a complete unity of interest and all such enterprises shall be considered subordinate economic organizations/entities and arms of the Community. While each enterprise may have a unique purpose, authority, and responsibility, each enterprise shall remain subject to the overriding and paramount purpose, authority, and responsibility of the Community. The Community has established its enterprises to ~~enhance~~ promote Community self-sufficiency and self-determination, promote Community economic development, generate employment for Community members, promote Pima and Maricopa cultural awareness, and generate government tax and other revenue to support the operation of Community government and the provision of governmental services and programs to Community members.

(5) The Community intends that all of its divisions, wholly owned Community limited liability companies, and majority owned Community-owned entities are entitled to all of the privileges and immunities of the Community, including but not limited to, immunities from suit, arbitration or other legal process in federal, state and tribal courts and administrative tribunals, and from federal, state, and local taxation or regulation, except as may be otherwise provided by Community law.

(6) The annual budget of income and expenses for all enterprises of the Community are subject to the final approval by the Community Council.

(7) All enterprises of the Community shall periodically transfer to the Community funds excess to the needs of the enterprise. All enterprises of the Community shall make such transfers at the direction of the Community Council.

(8) The Community Council may remove any board member(s) at-will and in its sole discretion.

(Code 2012, § 1-20; Ord. No. SRO-402-2012, § 1-20, 5-30-2012)

Secs. 1-36—1-58. Reserved.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS are underlined**

**SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY**

**10005 East Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER SRO-\_\_\_\_-2020**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1, SECTION 1-35 OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES TO CLARIFY THE LEGAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE ENTERPRISES TO THE COMMUNITY.**

**BE IT ENACTED:**

Chapter 1, Section 1-35 is hereby deleted and repealed and the following is adopted as a new Section 1-35:

**DIVISION 1. PREAMBLE TO ENTERPRISES**

**Sec. 1-35. Authorization.**

**Secs. 1-36—1-58. Reserved.**

**Sec. 1-35. Authorization.**

Article VII, section (1)(c)(5) and (f) of the Constitution of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("Community") authorizes the Community Council to adopt ordinances that provide for the public welfare and to organize enterprises for business or charitable purposes that are subordinate economic organizations/entities and arms of the Community which act for and on behalf of the Community as follows:

(1) The Community Council adopts this preamble to the enterprise ordinances as a brief statement of intent on how enterprises are related to the Community. To the extent possible, this Sec. 1-35 shall be interpreted consistently with other provisions in Chapter 1, Article II, Community Enterprises, Divisions and Boards, Sections 15.1-25 and 15.1-26, and Chapter 24, Article I, Limited Liability Company Act, but to the extent there are any inconsistencies, this Sec. 1-35 shall govern. Notwithstanding any other provision of



# SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



# SRPD ADDS THREE NEW POLICE OFFICERS

BY OFF. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS  
Salt River Police Department



On November 16, the Salt River Police Department's (SRPD) newest police officers, Jose Ramirez, Victor Marrujo and Rafael Lara Del Pilar, were sworn in by Salt River Community Court Judge Darayne Achin in a ceremony held in the SRPMIC Justice Center.

Officers Ramirez, Marrujo and Lara Del Pilar were hired by SRPD as new recruits and received their certification as peace officers within the State of Arizona. All three graduated from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Training Academy on November 12.

One of the reasons why Off. Ramirez wanted to join the SRPD was the feeling of the SRPMIC being one huge family. While serving the Community, his goal is to develop personal relationships with the members of the Community and do all he can to keep the Community safe. When away from work, Off. Ramirez enjoys fishing, running and spending time with his dogs.

Off. Marrujo is looking forward to working within the SRPMIC and is excited about the opportunities that the SRPD provides. When he is away from work, he enjoys skateboarding, playing sports, and spending time with his wife and four children. "I wanted to join SRPD because I heard it has great leadership where everyone is treated as family," said Off. Marrujo.

Off. Lara Del Pilar is very excited to begin his new career within the

SRPMIC and is looking forward to being part of the SRPD family. When he has free time, he enjoys watching sports and socializing with people. "I joined SRPD because I have heard about how the Community and their employees are treated with dignity and respect," said Off. Lara Del Pilar.

These new officers are currently attending three weeks of SRPD New Officer Transitional Training Education classroom training before beginning their standard 12-week Field Training Officer program. This program requires all newly hired police officers to work alongside certified Field Training Officers who coach, mentor and evaluate the new officers' readiness to serve the Community as future solo-beat police officers.

## Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic How to Protect Yourself When Going Out

- \* **WEAR A MASK** that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others. Masks offer some protection to you and may protect those around you if you are unknowingly infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.
- \* **CHOOSE A MASK** with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric that fits snugly against the sides of your face.
- \* **STAY 6 FEET APART AND AVOID CROWDS.**  
The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.
- \* **AVOID INDOOR SPACES** as much as possible, particularly ones that aren't well ventilated.  
You may find it harder to stay 6 feet apart in indoor spaces.
- \* **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN.**  
Use soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

**FOR ENROLLED SRPMIC MEMBERS AND/OR LANDOWNERS ONLY**

**SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
Engineering and Construction Services Department  
(480) 362-7900

**NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARING**

The Community Council and Land Management Board have scheduled a Community Hearing. You may or may not be a landowner in this area; however we are extending this special invitation to all Community Members and Landowners with an ownership interest within a 1/2-mile radius to attend this Community Hearing regarding the following:

**Proposed Road and Utility Easements**  
Westwood Street (Thomas Rd. to Earll Dr.), Earll Drive (Westwood St. to Extension Rd.), & N. 106<sup>th</sup> Way

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC) requests Rights-of-Way Easement (ROW) for the benefit of several homes on allotted lands in the vicinity of Westwood Street and Earll Drive.

These ROW easements are needed so the SRP-MIC can legally pave and maintain these roads and improve the service utilities in the area (e.g. fire hydrants, fiber-to-homes, upgraded water line, emergency services, etc.).

The SRP-MIC must obtain rights-of-way easement before making those sorts of improvements to avoid issues of trespass and waste public funds.

- Water mains will be replaced and upgraded using tribal funds.
- Roadway improvements will be constructed using federal Community Multi-scale Air Quality Model (CMAQ) grant funds, assuming the ROW easements are approved.

\* **Due to COVID-19** social distancing guidelines, this hearing will be available via pre-recorded video with several options for providing questions and comments. See box below for more information on how to view the video and provide comments and questions.

**You may view the pre-recorded video presentation of the Public Hearing starting on January 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. through January 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. To view the video, please visit: <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/1879-phc/>**

**Public comments can be made a number of ways:**  
By email: send an email to [Public\\_Hearing\\_Comments@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:Public_Hearing_Comments@srpmic-nsn.gov)  
By phone: (480) 362-7470 and leave a detailed message  
By text: (623) 282-5757  
By Survey: Please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRPMICPublicHearing>  
By mail: CDD, Attn: Public Comments, 10005 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256

## Santa Stops by SRS Food Service Meal Distribution Drive-Thru



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community students get a visit from Santa Claus during their SRS Food Distribution lunch pick up before going on winter break.

BY TASHA SILVERHORN  
O'odham Action News  
tasha.silverhorn2@srpmic-nsn.gov

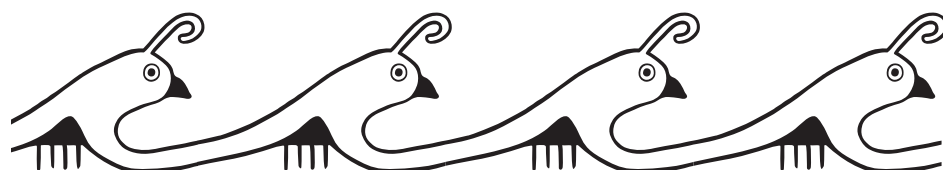
Santa and his elves came out to the Salt River Schools Food Services meal distribution drive-thru at the Early Childhood Education Center on Friday, December 18, to end the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. Many of the Salt River Education Department divisions were invited out by SRS Food Services to help give the children picking up food little educational gifts to keep them occupied while on their winter break.

Staff members from the Higher Education department gave out stickers, pencils, sanitizers and a Whataburger coupon. Early Childhood Education Center staff handed out snacks, and Salt River Elementary School staff handed

out cards with a candy cane attached; the cards had the words to "Jingle Bells" translated into O'odham, and the families were directed to the Salt River Schools social media page to learn the song. The SRES staff also handed out books to families. The Food Services elves handed out lunches to all the children along with a greeting from Santa.

While families waited in the drive-thru line, a couple of SRPMIC youth were asked what they wanted to ask Santa for this year. Reef Hayes said he was going to ask for video games, and Kadence Williams said that she wishes the coronavirus would go away.

SRS Food Services will go back to providing services to students starting January 5, 2021.





# SRPMIC December Virtual Events and Activities

BY MARISSA JOHNSON  
O'odham Action News  
marissa.johnson2@srpmic-nsn.gov

As 2020 rolled to the end, the residents of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community were still celebrating the holidays by decorating their houses and putting up lights and Christmas trees. The Salt River Events Program set out to create some holiday activities to take advantage of the fact that people are spending more time at home. Starting on December 7, Community members participated in the Family Christmas Tree Decorating Contest and the Family House Decorating Contest.

For the Christmas Tree contest, there were four categories for decoration: Traditional Christmas, Most Unique, Best Theme and Judges' Choice. In each category, the first-prize winner could choose from a home

projector, a \$100 Walmart gift card or a \$50 QuikTrip gas card.

The five categories for the Family House Decorating contest were Most Humorous, Most Festive, Most Spiritual, Best Theme and Best Use of Lights. The prize for first-place winners was a Ring doorbell camera system, a \$100 Amazon gift card or a \$50 QuikTrip gas card.

Lastly, for holiday entertainment there was Dangerously Fun Juggling with James Reid. The first 10 participants to send in a video of their best juggling won a \$50 gift card.

Be ready for more fun in 2021 from Salt River Events!



**Most Unique**  
Lisa Cachora



**Judge's Choice**  
Asa Padilla



**Most Festive**  
Ren Carras



**Most Humorous**  
Levi Johnson



**Best Themed**  
Christina Banegas



Not Pictured

**Best Use of Lights**  
Nina Baptisto

**Most Spiritual**  
Uriarte Family

**Best Themed**  
Selina Garcia & Family

**Traditional Christmas**  
Lisa Chavez





100% AMERICAN™



2020 was a year of unexpected challenges and hardships for many. Although it may be unrealistic to think we can wave a magic wand and have everything back to normal in 2021, we do hope that things begin to turn around and head in that direction. We wish you and your families a safe, healthy and prosperous new year.

Check us out at . . .
www.srmaterials.com



Exceptional People...Exceptional Benefits...Exceptional Company
Phoenix Cement Company and Salt River Sand & Rock,
dba Salt River Materials Group,
both divisions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

COVID-19 Essential Services

Continues Within the

SRPMIC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)

This is subject to change. Look for updated information on the SRPMIC website and Facebook

SRPMIC Coronavirus (COVID-19) 24 Hour Hotline: (480) 362-2603

DHHS ESSENTIAL SERVICES IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

- Public Health Nursing (480) 362-5555
Centralized Scheduling (Medical/Dental) (480) 946-9066
Behavioral Health (Outpatient) (480) 362-5707
Journey to Recovery (480) 362-5640
Pharmacy Main (480) 946-9 227
Pharmacy Refill Line (602) 200-5384
Financial Assistance (480) 362-7350
WIC (480) 362-7300
HHS Transportation (480) 362-5655
BHS Crisis Team (480) 850-9230

The following services are open to ENROLLED SRPMIC MEMBERS and TRIBAL ENROLLEES SALT RIVER INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE (SR Clinic) Patient Services Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Patient Visit Services:

- Routine follow-up appointments and diabetes check-ups will be managed via phone.
Nonessential wellness visits will be rescheduled to after April 12th.
Essential acute symptom visits will be seen in clinic.
Pre-natal visits
Same day sick visits
Labs will only be drawn if necessary.
Dental Emergencies.
Patients will be screened by a medical assistant at the front door and/or outside the clinic. If

patient has temperature > 100.4° the patient will be asked to wait in their car – medical assistant will get a nurse or provider to help triage and get a disposition for the patient.

HHS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES Outpatient Counseling

Hours of Operation: By appointment only, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday to Friday
Emergencies are handled by calling our Crisis Team number.

Journey to Recovery Hours of Operation: 24/7

HHS FIDUCIARY GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM (480) 362-5500

Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday to Friday
Emergencies are handled on a case by case basis.

NOTIFICATION TO OUR PATIENTS FROM THE SALT RIVER PHARMACY New Drive-up Pick-up Pharmacy Service

During the COVID-19 pandemic we are making every effort to serve you while limiting your risk of exposure. On April 7, 2020 we established a drive-up pick up pharmacy area which is open during our normal pharmacy hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- Please continue to order your refills using the AudioCare process.
If you don't have the prescription numbers needed you can still phone the pharmacy to get those numbers.
Refillable prescriptions should be ready the next business day by 2 p.m.
Prescriptions that require renewal by your provider may take up to 2 days.
Prescriptions will be notified by call/text when medications are ready for pickup
Please try not to order anything else while in the

drive-up pick up area as this causes delays and backup for fellow patients.

- Please be patient and remain in the parking space assigned to you to avoid delivery confusion.
The staff is moving as quickly as safety allows.
Please use caution in the parking lot.

S.R. CLINIC EXPANDED ACCESS FOR COVID-19 TESTING, CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR AVAILABLE TESTING

Patients identified by Contact Tracing and Public Health

- Scheduled Same Day or Next Day (highest risk w/ confirmed contact with a COVID positive patient)

Experiencing Symptoms

- Scheduling out 1-2 business day for small groups, 6+ individuals 1-2 business days depending on availability

No Symptoms

- Scheduling out 1-2 business days (no symptoms, no exposure)

NATIVE HEALTH - 777 W Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ (480) 550-4048

- Symptomatic only or exposure to
COVID-19 AHCCCS AND TRIBAL ENROLLED ONLY
Limited test kits available
Scheduling 1-2 days out

NATIVE HEALTH - 4041 N Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ (602) 279-5262

- Symptomatic and Asymptomatic
Seeing anyone-native, non-native, no insurance
Scheduling 2-3 days out

DUE TO INCREASED DEMAND TEST RESULTS ARE TAKING 5-7 DAYS

SRPMIC COVID-19 TEST SITE MOVED TO NEW LOCATION NORTHEAST OF THE CLINIC

SRPMIC COVID-19 test site moved to a new location just northeast of the clinic in front of the Veterans Office. The process will have vehicles enter from the east and exit to the west. Vehicles asked to enter from the driveways east of Cultural

Resources or the Dialysis Center and proceed south around the HHS parking lot. The new site provides a streamlined approach for the increased number of testing being requested. To schedule a COVID-19 Test, call (480) 362-2603.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS IS KEEPING YOU UPDATED AND INFORMED

Stay Connected!

Through the SRPMIC Web Page, Facebook, Announcements and Text Alerts.

For SRPMIC updates, please visit the following sites:

Facebook.com/SRPMIC
Text SRPMIC to 474747
OAN.srpmic-nsn.gov/

SRPMIC website for COVID-19 related info.

http://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/covid-19
Sign-up for email notifications, contact Community Relations

P: 480-362-7740

E: CommunityRelations@srpmic-nsn.gov