COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Gila River Indian Community member shares his knowledge of making sithol

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The COVID-19 pandemic hasn’t stopped the Saguaro cactus fruit from ripening or Gila River Indian Community members from passing on knowledge about harvesting this summertime staple. Each year O’otham come together to pick the prized bahithaj fruit.

The Gila River Health Initiative’s annual harvest was canceled, but they recently released a video called, “How to Make Bahithaj Sithol,” on the Gila River Indian Community Facebook page with the help of Antonio “Goik” Davis of District 5.

Harvesting bahithaj is a community effort for those who scour the desert with kuipud’s in hand to knock the fruit off of the towering Saguaro. With the on-going pandemic, many of the large scale bahithaj harvests have been canceled, but the tradition continues with families taking it upon themselves to pick bahithaj for sithol.

“This whole process is tedious, but it’s necessary,” said Davis on the steps to make sithol. Bahithaj harvest occurs in June or Ha:Shan Baithag Maaztha, which translates as “Harvest of the Saguaro cactus fruit moon,” (Huhugam Heritage Center) and refers to the ripening of the cactus fruit.

Heating the bahithaj is a two-step process to break down and extract the juices from the pulp and seeds and then re-heating until the leftover liquid thickens. Davis described the process of making sithol, which involves using at-least two large pots, a cheese cloth and fire to boil the pulp of bahithaj called the jun.

Davis said the best way to tell if the sithol is ready is how fast or slow the syrup runs off the ladle. He said “Ideally you would be able to take your pinky [finger] and run it against your spoon and if its sticky, then you’re in ‘syrup town.’” If the sithol is viscous, then take it off the fire and pour it into a mason jar while it is still hot so the heat can form a seal.

“I encourage each and every one of you to go out and ask your elders of [your] community, the different people, that have knowledge of harvesting the bahithaj, making the sithol,” said Davis.

He said bahithaj can be used in a wide range of recipes from traditional to contemporary.

“As we bring in July, or also known as the big rains month, the idea is to go out there, harvest and be safe,” said Davis.

Cheese cloth separates the juice from the pulp of the cactus fruit. GRIC Photo

Gila River Indian Community member shares his knowledge of making sithol

GRIC staying strong to slow the spread of COVID-19

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

COVID-19 testing continues in the Community with a total of 40,153 tests being done and of those tests 1,350 individuals have tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19). 535 positive cases are Gila River Indian Community members and 815 are non-members. Over 134,600 positive COVID-19 cases have been reported in the state and 3,5 million positive cases in the U.S.

Navajo Nation reported 8,370 positive cases as of July 15. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community reported 168 positive cases of COVID-19 as of July 15 with 110 recovered.

Currently, there is still no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, so it is important to continue to protect yourself, your family and your Community in order to reduce and prevent the spread of the virus. Although the elderly and those with previous health conditions are said to be the most vulnerable, the majority of those testing positive in the Community are between the ages of 20 and 44 years, according to data reports by the Tribal Health Department. Continue to wash your hands often, maintain physical distance, wear a face mask when around others.

The Gila River Indian Community maintains a stay-at-home order which directs those living within the Community to stay home unless they are conducting essential activities such as work, grocery shopping, doctor visits, outdoor physical activity, or caring for a family member, friend, or animal. Face coverings are also required for anyone out in public within the boundaries of the Gila River Indian Community. Cloth masks are available to Community members at any District Service Center. The Community’s governmental offices remain closed until at least August 2, 2020 due to the pandemic.

You can now stay informed on notices regarding the pandemic with text alerts from the Gila River Indian Community. Subscription is simple, just text “GILARIVER” to 797979 to sign up for updates. You will receive a text message confirming your subscription and you will begin to receive important updates from the Community and you can opt out at any time.
We ALL Count
Ve:si:ch A:chim Thoth ‘Apothag • Mat chaamk chuupkeesik
COMPLETE THE CENSUS TODAY!

2020 Census questionnaires have been delivered to Community residences
Complete your questionnaire to be counted!

Return the completed questionnaire by mail or use the unique 12-digit code to respond online by visiting www.census.gov or by phone at (844) 330-2020.

What is Person 1’s race?
Mark □ one or more boxes AND print origins
- White
- Black or African Am.
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Two or more races
- American Indian or Alaska Native - Print name of enrolled or principal tribe, if any. Navajo Nation, Hualapai Tribe, Hopi, Acoma, Tohono O’odham, Yuma, Maricopa, Papago, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, San Carlos, etc.
- Asian - Print name of Asian nation, if any. Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, etc.
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander - Print name of Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander nation, if any. Hawaiian, Samoan, etc.
- Two or more races - Print name of multiracial nation or tribal identity, if any. Black/African American, White, Hawaiian, etc.
- Print other race and/or tribal or other identity

Person 1 on the questionnaire should be a Gila River Indian Community member, everyone in the household who identifies as Gila River O’otham (Pima) or Pee-Posh (Maricopa) should answer “GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY” to the race question on the Census questionnaire.

If your household did not receive a questionnaire contact Rebecca Gregory at (520) 289-6702

CENSUS TIMELINE

June 2020
Census workers will deliver questionnaires to homes on Gila River.

August - October 2020
Census workers go door to door to count people who have not responded.

October 31, 2020
Last day to respond to the 2020 Census.

For more information about the 2020 census visit www.census.gov
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected numerous events on the Indian Country calendar including one of Arizona’s most renowned and oldest pageants. The Miss Indian Arizona Association’s (MIAA) Scholarship Program recently announced that their program, scheduled for Oct. 10 at the Chandler Center for the Arts, has been canceled.

Miss Indian Arizona Audriana Mitchell (Colorado River Indian Tribes), First Attendant Amy Spotted Wolf (Tohono O’odham Nation), and Second Attendant Autumn Cooper (Gila River Indian Community) make up the 2019-2020 court, and typically, their reigns would conclude in October at the next program, which closes out a year of appearances, speaking engagements, parades and learning experiences.

It was bittersweet for the young women to learn of the program’s cancellation, but the MIAA royalty agreed it was the right decision.

“It was a decision made by the committee, and I agree that it was best to cancel this year’s pageant for the safety of everyone,” said Mitchell.

Cooper, who stated similar sentiments, said, “it was a good decision to cancel this year’s Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship program seeing how Arizona’s spike in positive [COVID-19] cases and wouldn’t want to risk the lives of others.”

As ambassadors, their reign provided ample time to fulfill many activities for the court while representing their home communities.

Mitchell said, “Through my past reign as Miss CRIT, I got to become closer to my community. Of their support has helped me so much, and so I am glad I had the opportunity to represent my tribe at every event I went to.”

Continued on Page 8

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Page 3
Questions About COVID-19?

Need Information About Quarantine Or How To Get Tested For COVID?

CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE
(520) 550-6079
Lial, Currency, more ways of counting in O’otham

In the early trading days, Spanish and Mexican currency was introduced to O’otham as the Peso de Ocho and Real. These were O’othamized into “pi:sh” and “lial.” In 1853, after the Gadsden Purchase a new system of currency was introduced by Americans, which utilized the silver-standard. O’otham re-applied “pi:sh” to the dollar bills and adapted a value system for coins. Coins less in value than a dollar were a different matter, descriptors were applied that represented their value in cents and included “lial” to identify them as coins.

S-ua:mchu describes a penny’s color, but it understood that its value is one cent. Every coin was then given their O’otham names according to their value in cents. S-ua:mchu, a penny; Mi:yo lial, a value in cents. S-ua:mchu names according to their value, then added the lial (coin) amount first, applied to the half-dollar coin. The currency bills were given names according to their value in dollars by using the established O’otham system of counting. We already knew that hemako pi:sh was a one-dollar bill, or one-dollar silver coin. Hethaspo pi:sh was applied to the half-dollar bill; Vesthma:m pi:sh was applied to the twenty-five cent piece, or one silver. When the new coins were introduced, O’otham found that the twenty-five cent piece did not represent the value of any of the old marked cards, a system they had been accustomed to. There was no way to represent the five cent difference in value for two of the new coins. O’otham adapted by using the closest equivalent to the old system. Therefore, Gok lial (two silvers) was applied to the quarter and Gi’ik lial (four silvers) to the half-dollar coin.

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The late Charles Enos was awarded the Conner Byestewa Jr. award for his environmental work. Photo Courtesy DEQ

The late Charles Enos was instrumental in studying GRIC wildlife particularly with the Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program. Photo Courtesy DEQ

The late Charles Enos at the MAR-5 Interpretive Trail with students and guests. Christopher Lomahongai/GRIN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • July 1, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION SHEET</th>
<th>COMMUNITY COUNCIL; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CALL TO ORDER</td>
<td>The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, July 1, 2020, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:06 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVOCATION</td>
<td>Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone-Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROLL CALL</td>
<td>- Presenting the sign-in sheet for Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis (12:09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Members Present:</td>
<td>D1-Joey Whiteman, Azzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Monica Antone, Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Thomas White; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:25), Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans (9:19); D7-Devin Redbird (11:20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Members Absent:</td>
<td>D5-Vanessa Collier Wireless Access, Improvements And Equipment On And Near The Komatke Tower (EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenters: GRTI Board, James Meyers</td>
<td>ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORDINANCES</td>
<td>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Appointment of Court of Appeals Judge</td>
<td>Presenters: Community Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Appointment of Alternate Court of Appeals Judge</td>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MR. ANTHONY F. LITTLE II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenters: Community Council</td>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MR. GREGORY D. SMITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]</td>
<td>LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE SUSPENDED THE RULES TO ADDRESS NEW BUSINESS #1 AND #2. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR. NOTED FOR THE RECORD HIS OPPOSITION TO SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW BUSINESS</td>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 2019 Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Audit (EDSC forwards to Council to advertise for 60 days subject to the Code of Conduct)</td>
<td>Presenters: David White, WHPDA Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT</td>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE AUDIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Notice of Expiration of Board Term – WHPDA (G&amp;MSC forwards to Council to advertise for 60 days subject to the Code of Conduct)</td>
<td>Presenters: David White, WHPDA Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT</td>
<td>G&amp;MSC MEETINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~LIMITED ATTENDANCE IMPLEMENTED FOR JULY 2, 2020, 9AM</td>
<td>~ SPECIAL ESC WORK SESSION, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020, 9AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. March 18, 2020 (Regular)</td>
<td>2. June 2, 2020 (Regular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Gila River Community Casino Concerns</td>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenters: Community Council</td>
<td>LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE SUSPENDED THE RULES TO ADDRESS UNFINISHED BUSINESS #3. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR. NOTED FOR THE RECORD HIS OPPOSITION TO SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION</td>
<td>Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Reports on the consent agenda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenters: REDW, David White, WHPDA Board</td>
<td>G&amp;MSC MEETINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE AGENDA</td>
<td>G&amp;MSC MEETINGS</td>
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Gila River Indian News July 17, 2020
The current first and second attendants are the candidates for the title. Miss Indian Arizona Association Executive Director Denise Homer said, “The decision as to who will take on the title of Miss Indian Arizona 2020-21 will not be made until the August 1 meeting of the Miss Indian Arizona Association (MIAA).” Although there is uncertainty for the new titleholders, Homer is optimistic for the upcoming program. “MIAA members are looking at the possibility of a scaled-back program during the 2020-21 season. Fewer public appearances, more social media activity, and most important keeping everyone involved in the Miss Indian Arizona program as safe as possible by wearing masks, staying home, and social distancing,” said Homer.

Until the next court is declared, all three women will continue to pursue their own goals in education and their careers. Mitchell will focus on her education, work and her commitment to Native youth. Spotted Wolf looks forward to student-teaching at the beginning of 2021. Cooper will be completing her general studies and is grateful to be working in the Gila River Indian Community.

For more information please call the Head Start Center in the district where you reside.
HAS THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID CRISIS AFFECTED YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW? YOU COULD BE COMPENSATED FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY.


PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED. PARA INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, VISITE EL SITIO WEB.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
If you think you’ve been hurt by Purdue Pharma L.P., a U.S. limited partnership, its general partner and its subsidiaries, including Imbrium Therapeutics L.P., Adlon Therapeutics L.P., Greenfield BioVentures L.P., Avrio Health L.P., Rhodes Technologies, and Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P. ("Purdue"), or Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue, you can file a claim for compensation in the Purdue bankruptcy proceeding. The deadline to file a claim is July 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

WHAT IS A CLAIM AND WHO CAN FILE?
A “claim” means a right to seek payment or other compensation. You must file a Proof of Claim Form so it is actually received by the deadline. It can be filed by you, by a legal guardian, by survivors, or by relatives of people who have died or are disabled. All Personal Injury Claimant Proof of Claim Forms and any supporting documentation submitted with those forms will be kept highly confidential and will not be made available to the public. You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you. Additionally, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts, governmental units, and Native American Tribes may also file a proof of claim against Purdue.

Go to PurduePharmaClaims.com to find a complete list of instructions on how to file a claim. You will also find a list of the opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue.

You may file a Proof of Claim even if a settlement is contemplated in the Purdue bankruptcy so that your claim can be considered as part of any settlement.

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT AND WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?
If you think you’ve suffered harm from Purdue or its prescription opioids, you have the right to file a claim even if you may also have received reimbursement from insurance. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Purdue bankruptcy include death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of spousal relationship benefit for things like child-rearing, enjoyment of life, etc., or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (sometimes referred to as "NAS"), among others.

The deadline to file a claim is July 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. If you do not file a claim by the deadline, you will lose the right to file a claim against Purdue, and you will lose any right to seek payment or compensation you may have had. Proof of Claim Forms, a list of opioids produced, marketed or sold by "Purdue," and instructions for how to file a claim are online at PurduePharmaClaims.com. You can also request a claim form by mail, email or phone:

Purdue Pharma Claims Processing Center
C/o Prime Clerk LLC
850 Third Avenue, Ste. 412, Brooklyn, NY 11232
Email: purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com - Phone: 1.844.217.0912

THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION. Is Purdue out of money? No. For more information concerning Purdue's bankruptcy, Frequently Asked Questions, Proof of Claim Forms, examples of personal injury and other claims that can be filed, instructions on how to file a claim, and important documents including the Bar Date Notice, visit PurduePharmaClaims.com, or call 1.844.217.0912.
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BY COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, GRIC HAS REQUESTED A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOV 3RD.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP
Deleting the 20-year residency requirement for members:
Currently, Article 3, Section 3 of the Constitution states that a Community member who remains away from the Reservation continuously for 20 years shall automatically forfeit his or her tribal membership.

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

ARTICLE XV POWERS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Currently Articles 3 and 15 of the Constitution state that the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to review certain kinds of ordinances and resolutions enacted by the Community Council, including civil and criminal codes, and ordinances regulating tribal membership.

IN ORDER TO CHANGE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XVII STATES -
“Proposed amendments will be approved by a majority vote of the registered voters of the Community voting in an election called for the purpose by the Election Board, provided that at least thirty (30) percent of the registered voters vote in such election.”

IT’S YOUR CONSTITUTION
MEMBERSHIP • DISTRICTS • POWER

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIAL ELECTION, PLEASE VISIT:
MYGILARIVER.COM/INDEX.PHP/SPECIAL-ELECTION-2020