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ARIZONA BUSINESS GAZETTE

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New in the neighborhood

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Lottery awards 13 marijuana licenses

AZ collected \$9.4M from applicants

Ryan Randazzo Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thirteen fortunate businesses on April 19 won the lottery, literally, giving them the multi-million dollar opportunity to run marijuana dispensaries, farms and processing plants in rural Arizona counties.

The new dispensary licenses are each designated for a specific county with fewer than two marijuana dispensaries operating today.

The lottery follows Arizona voters' approval of Proposition 207 in November, which legalized adult use of marijuana, allowed medical-marijuana dispensaries to sell the drug to anyone 21 or older and called for the additional rural licenses.

Each ball in the lottery drawing represented an applicant who paid a nonrefundable \$25,000 for the chance to win. The state collected about \$9.4 million from the applications.

Applicants also had to have \$500,000 of capital available, and a proposed location for where they will open in the counties where they applied.

Arizona only had 130 dispensary licenses available before the lottery. The total now is 143. About 125 shops are operating today, as some companies that control licenses have yet to

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Andrea Pimentel (right) administers a COVID-19 vaccine at Taylor Farm in Tolleson, Ariz. on April 16, 2021.
MEG POTTER/THE REPUBLIC

Valley firm does mobile COVID-19 vaccinations for workplaces

Georgann Yara
Special to Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Many spouses are accustomed to their wives coming home with must-have purchases like a pair of pricey pumps, a satchel with "LV" stamped all over or a sleek e-bike with all the trimmings that will be the envy of the neighborhood.

But if you're married to entrepreneur Sarah Hope you must be prepared to think bigger. Literally.

The owner of 910ccMed - Workplace Wellness talked about informing

her husband that she bought a contemporary decked out four-wheeled mobile unit. That way, she and her team could head out to hard-to-reach areas of the state to give people COVID-19 vaccinations.

"This is how we're going to head out to the Navajo Nation. This is how we're getting to the Grand Canyon. This is how we're going to vaccinate all these people!" Hope recalled with the enthusiasm and excitement of a kid on Christmas morning of her declaration.

She laughed and followed with her husband Jason's supportive response: "He's like, 'OK honey.'"

Offering COVID-19 vaccines and rapid testing are recent additions to the lineup of services Hope's company has provided businesses since opening in 2016, as 911 Drug Testing. It has since expanded from providing businesses with background screenings on job candidates to the bevy of offerings that cover drug testing, fingerprinting and immunizations.

It's become a go-to source for major corporations, school districts and small businesses, all seeking the convenience of not having to send employ-

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