



COLUMN

LARRY'S CORNER
"WHAT PROBLEMS?"
Read how Larry is solving everyone's problem?

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COMMUNITY

Hopi Transition Team Meetings
Read more about the meetings and how you could attend

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Hopi Tutuveni

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March 4, 2020
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Number 5



2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) – General Public Information

Royce Jenkins, Director - Department of Health and Human Services, The Hopi Tribe
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

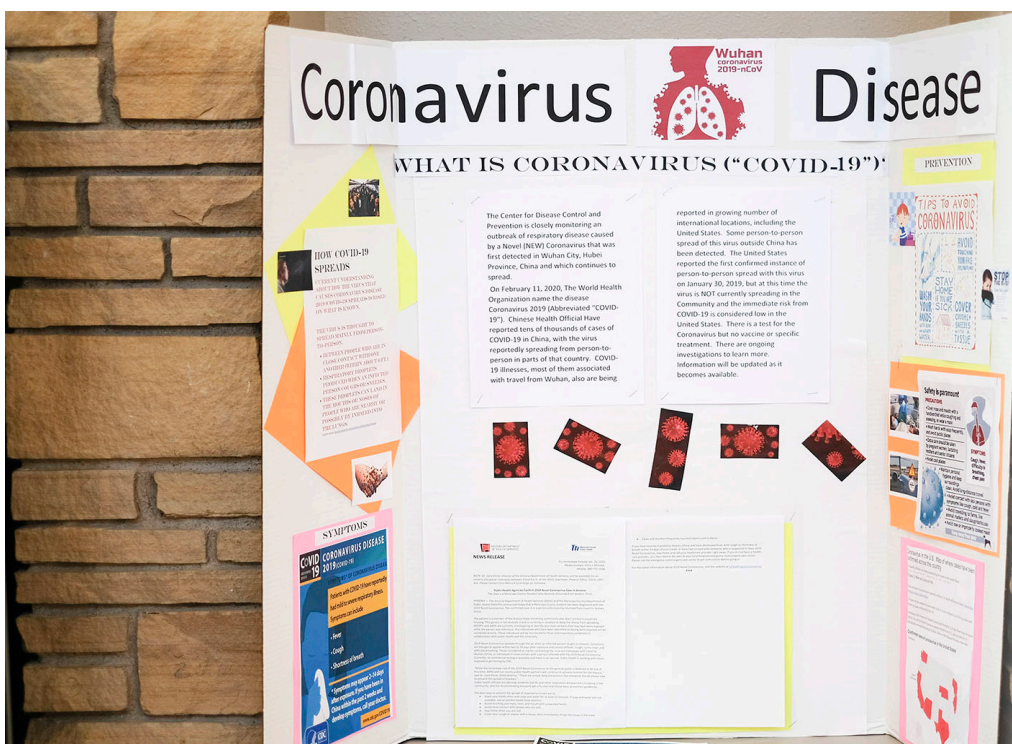
Kykotsmovi, Ariz. - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the national public health institute of the United States and the lead federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services and is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

With much news generated throughout the media the country and abroad The Hopi Tribe's Department of Health & Human Services together with Hopi Health Care Center, state and federal agencies are working closely monitoring the "coronavirus disease 2019" or COVID-19 and collaboratively working together to keep the public and community informed and updated on this disease.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of a respiratory disease, "coronavirus disease 2019" or COVID-19, that is caused by a new coronavirus that was first detected in China. COVID-19 has now been detected in 35 locations internationally, including cases in the United States. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, the immediate health risk is considered low at this time. However, the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19...

Continued on page 2



Poster at the Hopi Health Care Center in a public area about the 2019-nCoV (Photo by Carl Onsae/HT)

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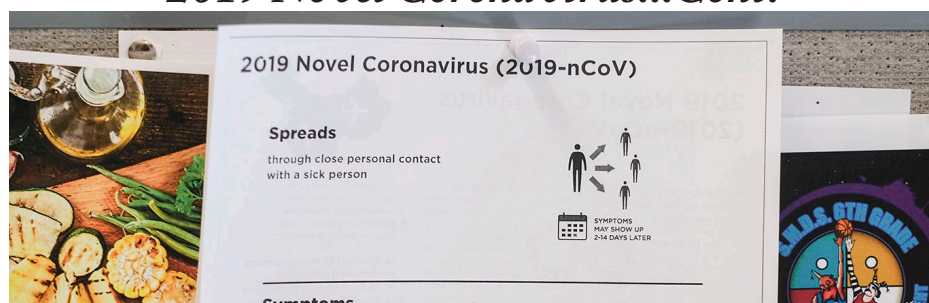
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'An extreme shock': ASU students describe chaotic return from China due to coronavirus

More on pg. 11

2019 Novel Coronavirus...Cont.



(Photo by Carl Onsaie/HT)

is high, both globally and to the United States. This is a rapidly evolving situation, and information is likely to become dated quickly. We encourage everyone to periodically review CDC's COVID-19 webpage for the most recent updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The IHS will continue to follow normal policies and procedures for evaluation and treatment of respiratory illnesses. Patients who are presenting with flu-like illness are being asked if they have traveled recently as a means to determine their risk of exposure to COVID-19. If a patient comes under evaluation for COVID-19, IHS would coordinate with local, state, and/or tribal public health departments immediately.

While any direct impacts of this outbreak to Indian Country are not yet known, we must be vigilant in our efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of infections among our patients and within the communities we serve. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html> for some of the everyday preventive actions you can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

As flu activity remains high in the U.S. and is expected to continue for weeks, it isn't too late to get your annual influenza vaccination. Everyone six months and older should get the vaccination each year to protect themselves and reduce the risk of spreading the flu to others. Vaccination against the flu is especially important for American Indians and Alaska Natives, who have been found to be at high risk of developing complications from the flu. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm> for more information.

Studies have shown that people who get vaccinated will have fewer flu illnesses and doctor visits and miss less work due to influenza. Protect yourself, your family,

and your community by getting your vaccination today.

Everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses include:

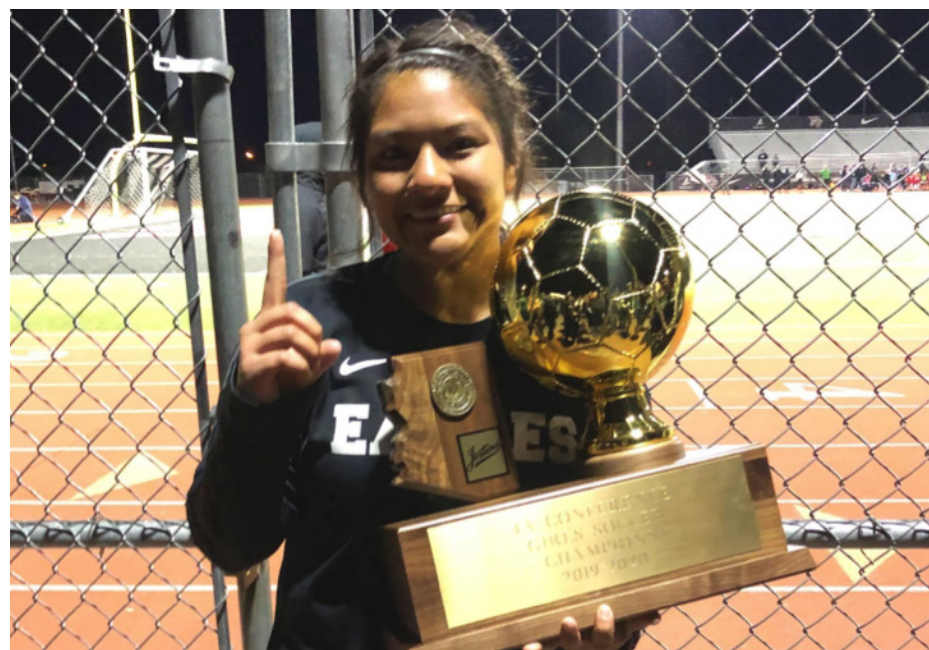
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands).
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For more information, check out the Arizona Department of Health Services website: <https://www.azdhs.gov/coronavirus>.

The Hopi Department of Health & Human Services is program of the Hopi Tribe and promotes health awareness through advocacy, health education, promotions and prevention for individual and families to create healthy communities while working closely with villages. The services within the Department include: a) Adult & Aging Program; b) HOPI Cancer Program; c) Women, Infants & Children Program; d) Community Health Services Program; e) Hopi Wellness Program; and f) Non-Medical Transportation Program, and g) Public Health Compliance Officer & Small Animal Control Program.

If you would like the most current information about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. This has been a public announcement by the Hopi Tribe's Department of Health & Human Services (928) 734-3202.

Hopi Girl from Oraibi helps Win Girls 4A Soccer State Championship



Sophomore Hopi Goalkeeper, Lianna Albert holding the 4A Girls Arizona State Soccer Championship trophy in Gilbert, Ariz. Photo by Daniell Albert

Daniell J. Albert For Hopi Tutuveni

Gilbert, Ariz. - Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020, at Gilbert Williams Field High School, #3 seed Flagstaff High School defeated last year's state runner up #4 seed Catalina Foothills. The scoreless game ended the regulation in a tie 0-0, followed by two overtime periods and two 5-minute sudden-death periods, which still resulted in a 0-0 game. This led to an intense penalty kick (PK) shootout showdown between the two teams with Flagstaff eventually winning 4-2.

Hopi Goalkeeper, Lianna Albert, sophomore from the Village of Oraibi, helped the Lady Eagles win in penalty kicks, playing over 100 minutes of game time with 17 saves and 2 straight diving pen-

alty kicks saves to win the game. Albert was given a standing ovation after the solo intense penalty kicks saves. Sou Torres, the opposing teams' head coach to be quoted, "A quality keeper and one of the strongest"

Eagles head coach, Holly Jones, was proud of the team's mentality, focus and discipline while they kept up their defense along the way to a wild season ending. The team ended their season with a 14-2 record against powerhouse teams losing only to top seeds #1 Prescott and #2 Arcadia in the regular season. As far as the tournament went, the Eagles allowed only three goals in four matches to get passed them.

The Eagles path in the postseason was extraordinarily irregular. In the opening state play-off round, they defeated

Gila Ridge in overtime. And then the young team moved forward with back-to-back penalty kick wins against Tucson Sahuaro and three-time defending state champions Salpointe Catholic, advancing their way to their first state championship game since 2011.

Jones stating after the championship, "Lianna's personality really shined and her confidence just kept rising...she played bigger and bigger every game, with a smile on her face." Jones couldn't have been prouder of her goalkeeper and her team. Albert is among the young crew of 13 underclassmen to return next year to defend their state title, losing only 4 seniors from their roster. The future is bright for the Lady Eagles Soccer team for the upcoming years.

Super Tuesday on March 17, 2020

**Karen Shupla, Registrar
Hopi Elections Office**

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – March 3, 2020, Hopi Elections Office reminds Hopi Tutuveni readers that not only is March 17, 2020 St. Patrick's Day, it is also the day of the Presidential Preference Election. (The Democratic Party is the only party participating in the PPE) Polls are open 6:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. MST.

At Super Vote Centers (polling sites) for Navajo County- a registered voter may cast their vote at any voting center in Navajo County.

The Navajo reservation polling sites will be open 6:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. DST, which begins on Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Navajo County polling locations for registered Hopi voters are as follows:

LDS Church located in

Polacca, Ariz.

Sipaulovi Youth and Elderly Center located in Sipaulovi, Ariz.

Kykotsmovi Youth and Elderly Center located in Kykotsmovi, Ariz.

Coconino County polling locations for registered Hopi voters are as follows:

Tuba City High School Pavilion Center located in Tuba City, Ariz.

What is the Presidential Preference Election?

The Arizona Presidential Preference Election (PPE) is a special election in which voters registered with political parties vote for the candidate they want to become their party's Presidential nominee in the upcoming general election. Party winners of the Arizona PPE are officially determined at the party's national convention. Other states have their own PPE, as well.

Reminder: Bring your

ID when going to the polling sites.

Registration deadline dates/Election dates for the upcoming elections are as follows:

National Elections

Election Dates

Deadline Dates To Register

Presidential Preference Election March 17, 2020
February 18, 2020

Primary Election

August 4, 2020

July 6, 2020

General Election

November 3, 2020

October 5, 2020

Last day to request for an early ballot for the PPE – March 6, 2020

Register to vote online at: www.servicearizona.com or www.vote411.org

For more information call: Navajo County Voter Registration at 928-524-4192 or Hopi Elections Office at 928-734-2507

New Native American Film 'Touch the Water' Gets Green Light!

'Touch the Water' Slated for April/ May Production

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MESA — Despite still needing actors, locations and with only partial funding in place, Holt Hamilton Films declares they are moving full speed ahead on their next feature film production. "I've never had everything in perfect place before starting any journey in my life. Maybe it's just me, but at some point, you've got to go for it- win or lose. Stop thinking about it, planning it, and just kneel down with a prayer, tighten up the boot straps, buckle your seat belt, step on the gas and hang on!" said writer/director Holt Hamilton with a smile, "I just don't know how to get it done any other way, maybe someday, but I'm not there yet."

The production company recently opened auditions to a world audience with an online audition and submission process that ended on 22 Feb 2020. Over 100 applicants submitted and are still under review. Hamilton stated that they have opened the online submission opportunity back up today and will let it run until the 14th of March. Final Casting decisions will be made the 21st of March in prepara-

tion for an April/May 2020 production. Specific casting details are available on the HHF website at www.HoltHamilton.com (Click the 'ACTORS' tab).

In addition to the online audition process open to all the world, Holt Hamilton Films will have their first in person audition for 'Touch the Water' this coming Saturday, March 7th. The audition will run from 1-3pm at the Native Health center in Phoenix, Arizona (4041 N. Central Ave, Bldg C, Phoenix, AZ 85012). "Native Health has supported us in many ways over the years and now again with space to hold auditions in downtown Phoenix. I was amazed when I did a recent walk through with Susan Levy at the facility. The space was large and perfect for what I wanted. We're thankful for their partnership in our film journey over the years." Hamilton stated.

'Touch the Water' is scheduled for production in April/May with a planned theatrical release this fall. The movie portrays an eighty-year-old woman and plans on shining light into the struggle a person goes through as age increases. 'You are never too old to dream' is the film's tagline.

Movie Logline: When a young intern at the local Senior Day Center challenges Daisy, an accomplished Native American elder, to dream again, she re-evaluates her tired frail body with her still youthful mind to set out on a stirring quest to fulfill a life-long dream.

Another unique thing Hamilton is doing for his audience on 'Touch the Water', is removing the curtain from his nontraditional filmmaking process by allowing viewers to 'Follow the Journey' on their YouTube channel 'Holt Hamilton Films' as he works to make the movie happen. They have released 24 episodes and plan to continue with the episodes through the theatrical release of the movie. "There hasn't been a lot of views yet, but I feel it's right to share this information. If nothing else, it may inspire another filmmaker or two and help them realize that the struggle is similar whether you are in Hollywood with money or your own backyard shed turned office."

www.HoltHamilton.com.

To arrange an interview please contact Travis at (602) 769.7681, travis@holthamilton.com

Hopi School System Transition Public Meetings

Hopi Transition Team Press Release

The Hopi Education Code (passed on August 7, 2019 by Hopi Tribal Council), creates a new Hopi School System unifying each of Hopi's Tribally Controlled Schools under a new Hopi Board of Education (HBE) and provides new administrative structures designed to improve educational services for Hopi students.

The Transition Team is a group of Hopi professionals and community members who will facilitate and provide advice and recommendations on the planning and implementation of the transition from the current, individual organization of the Hopi schools to the unified Hopi School System. Code §1.5.A(31).

The Hopi School System Public meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month, beginning at 5:30 pm. The location of meetings will rotate between the HJSHS and elementary schools during the time the Transition Team is engaged with completing the transition, currently projected to continue through July of 2022.

We look forward to seeing you at SMDS!

Transition Team Officers,

Dr. Darold H. Joseph, Chair

Mr. Alban Naha, Vice-Chair

Ms. Samantha Honani, Secretary

Any questions can be directed to the Hopi Department of Education and Workforce Development at (928) 734-3501.

LIVING

Write More Letters to Friends and Family

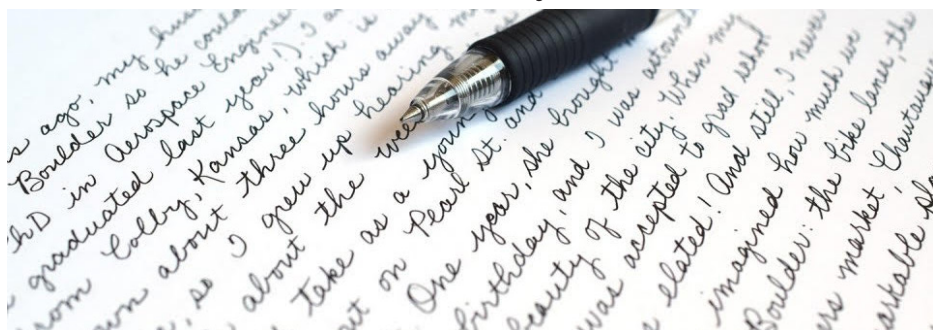


PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Statepoint

(StatePoint) In an age of instant messages, video chats and social media, the art of letter writing has become rare. But sitting down to write correspondence by hand can be a much more personal way to connect than some of the modern modes of communication. Not only does it give you ample opportunity to express yourself, it gives your recipient something tangible to hold onto and revisit.

If it's been some time since you last corresponded by snail mail, you may find your letter-writing skills to be a bit rusty. To help you be successful, the experts at Pilot Pen are offering some tips:

1. **Make Lasting Connections.** Writing and mailing letters daily may feel a bit intimidating, but why should it? Did you text someone today? Did you send an email? If the answer is yes, you're already halfway there. Put pen to paper instead and add a more personal, analog touch to your daily communication. Reconnect with long distance friends, send happy mail to your parents, or explore the opportunity to encourage a soldier overseas and make a new friend in the process. Whoever you choose to write to this process, it will help create a physical reminder of the connection between you and your recipient.

2. **Pick Great Tools.** A trusty pen can get you through any deadline, to-do list or thank you note. Wielding this powerful tool will automatically help you feel capable of taking on new challenges. During the month of February, Pilot Pen suggests picking up a pen designed to help you au-

thor your best correspondence, as well as overachieve in every aspect of your life. With G2, America's number one selling, longest-lasting gel ink pen, you'll be able to glide through all 29 days of handwritten letters, and anything else that comes across your desk, for months to come.

3. **Get Inspired.** Not sure where to start? Think of each recipient and what makes them special to you. Share favorite memories or accomplishments that make you extra proud of them. Then, share one anecdote or piece of news from your life. In our increasingly digital lives, your unique hand-written sentiments will likely bring a welcome bit of cheer into their day.

4. **Get Personal.** Remember: the written word is powerful, especially when it's personal. Give each note a special touch by writing it on monogrammed stationery or a special postcard. You can take this personalization concept one step further by using different pens for each recipient. With four pen point sizes ranging from ultra-fine to bold and more than 25 ink color options, including pastels, and metallics, there's sure to be a G2 pen suited to your writing style and your recipient's tastes.

For tools and inspiration, visit powertothepen.com and instagram.com/pilotpenusa.

By rediscovering the art of handwritten correspondence, you'll give yourself a meaningful chance to connect with pen pals all over the globe.

Kaibab National Forest announces March archaeology month events



Close-up image of some of the petroglyphs at Keyhole Sink. Photo by Dyan Bone. Credit Kaibab National Forest.

WILLIAMS, Ariz., Feb. 21, 2020 — This March, the Kaibab National Forest will continue its more than decade-long tradition of offering stimulating presentations and outdoor excursions in the Williams area as part of Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month.

On Wednesday evenings throughout March, experts will present a series of lectures starting at 6 p.m. at the Sultana Theatre in Williams covering topics such as the history of sheep ranching in northern Arizona, Fred Harvey's original farm-to-table legacy, and the role of the Forest Service in shaping Arizona and its lands.

On all four Saturdays in March, Kaibab National Forest archaeologists will lead fun and educational hikes to the Keyhole Sink petroglyph site near the Parks community starting at 2 p.m. The Keyhole Sink Trail offers a short, relatively flat hike to a scenic box canyon where prehistoric residents left their mark carved into the canyon's gray volcanic walls.

A special addition to the 2020 archaeology month offerings is the Stone to Steel Dam Trail hike, which will be held both March 14 and March 28. Guests should arrive at 9:30 a.m. at the Ash Fork Museum in Ash Fork. The trail is an easy, winding path between two historic dams. The first large steel dam in the nation was built in Ash Fork in the late 1890s by a railroad

company. Less than a mile upstream is another dam dating from 1911, which was also constructed by the railroad but with stone blocks.

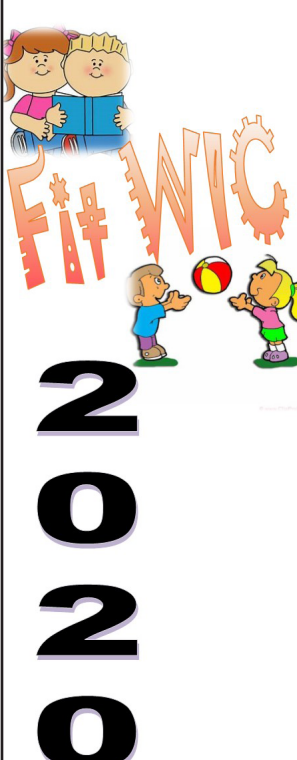
"We are so fortunate to live in an area that is so rich with history and culture," said Neil Weintraub, archaeologist for the south zone of the Kaibab National Forest. "There is no better time than archaeology month to learn about and explore the incredible diversity of special places that make the Kaibab National Forest and northern Arizona so unique."


Archaeology month is intended to generate understanding of and support for the state's archaeological heritage. Celebrations and events focus on promoting the preservation of archaeological resources and illustrating ways the public can help in protecting and appreciating them.


For detailed information about the Kaibab National Forest archaeology month offerings in the Williams area, visit March 2019 Archaeology Events.

Kaibab National Forest information is also available through the following sources:

- Kaibab National Forest Website: www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/KaibabNF
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/KaibabNF
- Flickr: <http://bit.ly/KaibabNFPhotos>



**Prenatal Breastfeeding Education Class**
9:00-11:00 PM

**Fit WIC Class— WIC enrolled children ages 3-4 yrs.**
1:00-3:00 PM

January

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Hopi CHR presents
4th Annual
Protecting Our Youth to Strengthen Our Community
Youth Conference



JULY 7, 2020

Cóming Són!

AT THE
HOPI VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CENTER



COMMUNITY

Is Your Dinner Contributing to Plastic Pollution in the Ocean?



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) artem_goncharov / stock.Adobe.com

By StatePoint

Did you know that the choices your local grocery store makes can have a global impact on the environment? From the types and brands of seafood sold to the way foods are packaged and carried out of the store, oceans worldwide are affected by the operations of grocers near you.

Fortunately, supermarkets across the country have made significant progress over the last 10 years when it comes to providing sustainable seafood options to customers, according to a new Greenpeace report, “Carting Away the Oceans.” From advocacy and transparency initiatives to addressing illegal fishing, many major retailers nationwide are improving. Overall, 90 percent of the retailers profiled in the report received passing scores, 10 years after every single retailer failed Greenpeace’s first assessment. However, experts say that the momentum of this positive trend should be applied to other areas of sustainability, too.

“It’s time to put the same energy into tackling the unaddressable issues facing seafood workers and our oceans,” says Greenpeace oceans campaigner David Pinsky. “It’s not truly sustainable seafood if it’s produced by forced labor and then wrapped in throwaway plastic packaging.

Supermarkets can use their brands, buying power and influence to do what is right for our oceans and for future generations.”

As Greenpeace points out, the equivalent of a garbage truck of plastic enters oceans every minute, and with plastic production set to double in the next 20 years -- largely for packaging -- threats to ocean biodiversity and seafood supply chains are increasing. According to the report, none of the retailers profiled currently have a comprehensive policy to reduce and ultimately phase out their reliance on single-use plastics.

As a customer, you can make a difference by carrying your own tote bag on shopping trips and by asking your local supermarket what steps are being taken to reduce plastic use. Consumers can also show their support for brands doing the right thing by shopping only for seafood that’s produced sustainably and ethically. To learn more, visit greenpeace.org/usa/carting-away-the-oceans.

The next time you shop for groceries, take note of both the foods you are buying and the way items are packaged. Experts say that when you eat seafood from ethical, sustainable producers and limit single-use plastic packaging, oceans worldwide will benefit.



Scientists have long warned about link between pandemics and climate change

Shelves for bottled water are bare at a grocery store in Anchorage, Alaska, Sunday, March 1, 2020. (AP Photo/Mark Thiessen)

Jourdan Bennett-Begaye
Indian Country Today

As one 2016 study reported: ‘Climate change can affect human health, especially when infectious diseases are concerned’

What’s in a name? Epidemiologists are describing COVID-19 as a pandemic. But the World Health Organization isn’t going that far just yet, describing the spread as merely an “epidemic.”

The coronavirus disease “has pandemic potential,” Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization said on Feb. 26. “Using the word pandemic carelessly has no tangible benefit, but it does have significant risk in terms of amplifying unnecessary and unjustified fear and stigma, and paralyzing systems.”

But by Friday the international health organization raised its risk assessment for COVID-19 to “very high” based on the “spread” of virus and “countries’ capacity to respond.”

Not that people are paying attention to the actual label. Around the world stores are reporting

a run on basic supplies such as water and disinfectant wipes. It’s the same in Italy, Hong Kong and other places where the virus has been reported.

Even though Alaska has yet to report a case, stores are reporting shortages of water and other supplies.

Dr. Michael Mina says it may not be dubbed a pandemic, “but I think most epidemiologists around the world, including myself and my colleagues, definitely consider this at this point to be sort of the definition of a pandemic.” Mina is an assistant professor of epidemiology and an assistant professor of immunology and infectious diseases at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health of Harvard University,

“And that’s because it’s spreading now locally in many countries not just China anymore,” said Mina, who is the associate medical director leading some of the molecular biology diagnostics focused on diagnosing and dealing with COVID-19.

The Journal of American Medical Association defines a pan-

demic as “a health condition that has spread globally” and epidemic as “an outbreak that has spread to a larger geographic area.”

By Sunday the World Health Organization reported 87,137 cases worldwide. China identified 79,968 cases of COVID-19 resulting in 2,873 deaths. Outside China there are 7,169 cases in 58 countries and 104 deaths.

At the beginning of the year, the organization released 13 “urgent, global health challenges” for the next decade. Part of the 13 included preparing for epidemics, stopping infectious diseases, and elevating health in the climate debate. All three of which continue to be overlooked.

In that same announcement, Dr. Ghebreyesus said, “Countries invest heavily in protecting their people from terrorist attacks, but not against the attack of a virus, which could be far more deadly, and far more damaging economically and socially. A pandemic could bring economies and nations to their knees.”

Yet beyond the words, epidemic or pandemic, warnings about a fast-spreading virus has been a

part of the literature on climate change.

Scientists say the world isn’t prepared to deal with a global pandemic. The 1918 influenza pandemic has been used as an example. Back then, the world didn’t have the medical technology it has now. But even medical innovation isn’t enough today. The world has the ability to travel from continent to continent quickly. Now COVID-19 exists on six of the seven continents in the world.

Due to the “combined impacts of rapid demographic, environmental, social, technological and other changes in our ways-of-living,” there is an “apparent increase” in infectious diseases and new ones, said the World Health Organization. “Climate change will also affect infectious disease occurrence.”

As one 2016 study found: “Climate change can affect human health, especially when infectious diseases are concerned.”

The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board in a report last year outlined what governments should be doing to prepare for

global health emergencies. The board found that between 2011 and 2018, the World Health Organization fought 1,483 epidemic events in 172 countries.

Dean Seneca, who worked for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention for nearly 19 years as a health scientist in the Office for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support and was also a first responder to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, said rapid changes in the environment “have a huge impact on disease outbreaks.”

“You know the environment, if you wanna if we really want to get into it, had a huge, you can look this up, had a huge impact on the hantavirus,” said the Seneca tribal citizen. The hantavirus was first spotted on the Navajo Nation and spread throughout the Four Corners Region in 1993.

After years of drought, rain and snow came heavily in the early months of 1993. Navajo elders told CDC scientists, who were trying to figure out the source of the hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, that the precipitation reinvigorated the plants,

Eastern Cherokee seek to enter commercial gaming

File photo: This Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 photo, shows a parcel of land that The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has reached an agreement with developer Steve Johnson to develop and operate a casino on a 350-acre tract in Washington County, near Bristol, Va.. (Andre Teague/Bristol Herald Courier via AP)

Joseph Martin
For Indian Country Today

With the success of off-reservation casinos by many tribes, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is hoping to expand its gaming to an off-reservation venture in Bristol, Virginia. The proposal hinges on passage of legislation to legalize casino gaming in Virginia and the Eastern Cherokee being granted a license. It would be a commercial casino, outside of the confines of the federal Indian Gaming Regu-

latory Act and the tribe's compact with the State of North Carolina.

The proposal comes on the heels of the tribe's opposition to the Catawba Indian Nation's efforts to establish gaming near Charlotte, N.C., outside of their lands in South Carolina, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe proposing a facility near Richmond, Va. along with a proposed Hard Rock property, owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, also in Bristol.

The proposal has led to criticism of both the Eastern Cherokees and The Pinnacle,

the retail development operated by Steve Johnson, with whom the tribe would be a partner.

Jim McGlothlin and Clyde Stacy speaking on behalf of the competing Bristol Resort and Casino, who is partnering with Hard Rock, accused the Eastern Cherokee, in a statement, of trying to cut out competition. "We can't help but believe that the Cherokee don't want us to compete with them against their very successful Cherokee, N.C. casino, and Steve Johnson does not want 50 retail stores and restaurants

operated by Hard Rock to compete with his Pinnacle operation."

McGlothlin and Stacy have also suggested that the tribe doesn't actually run its gaming, citing the management agreement with Harrah's, a subsidiary of Caesars. Neither McGlothlin nor Stacy could be reached for comment.

Greg Habeeb, who is representing the Eastern Cherokee in Virginia, said that the tribe manages its casinos. The only Caesars' employee

Cont. On Page 15

Cherokee's seeds of life

Dalton Walker
Indian Country Today



Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Secretary of Natural Resources Chad Harsha with heirloom seeds being sent to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway. (Photo courtesy of Cherokee Nation)

A tiny part of Cherokee Nation is heading deep inside a secluded, freezing-cold mountain thousands of miles away from home.

This is the way. This is life. This is survival.

It's also history. As many tribes across Indian Country are preparing for spring planting season, Cherokee Nation is taking a dramatic step further, beyond planting and its annual seed distribution to its citizens. The tribe is the first in North America to deposit traditional heirloom seeds at Norway's Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Cherokee Nation is only the second Indigenous community to store seeds at the vault after

South America's Indigenous Andeen communities in 2015.

Cherokee Nation made the seed announcement in early February and the deposit is scheduled to happen today, Feb. 25.

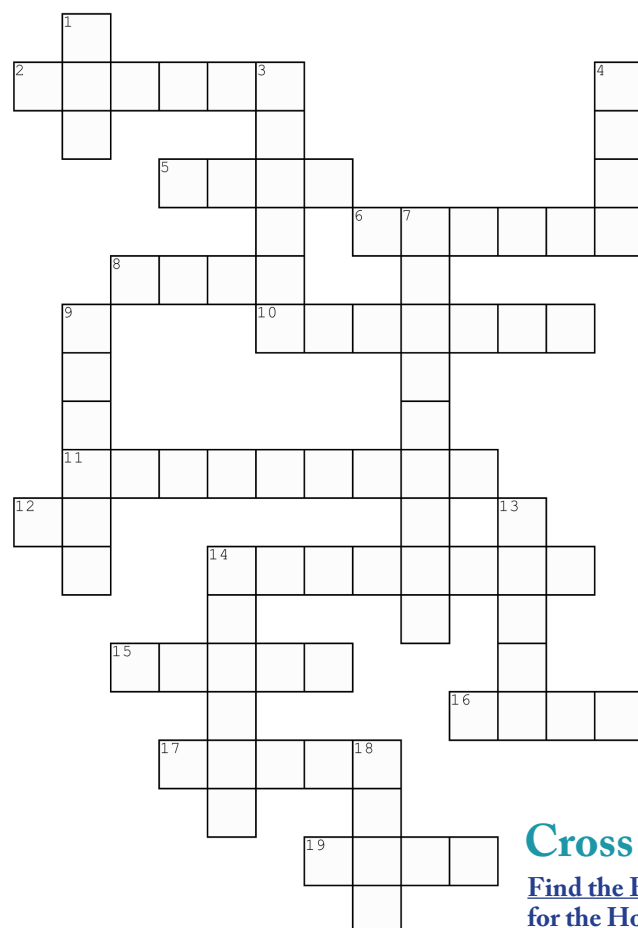
"My hope is that we are not the last [North American] tribe, last group of Indigenous people to be invited and that we are just the first of many," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Nine Cherokee heirloom samples were sent to Norway: Cherokee White Eagle Corn, Cherokee Long Greasy Beans, Cherokee Trail of Tears Beans, Cherokee Turkey Gizzard black and brown beans, Cherokee Candy Roaster squash and three other types of corn. Each predates European

contact and is significant to the Cherokee people. Hoskin said the seeds selected are the most popular among the tribe and "varieties that we would want to provide in case of global catastrophe, so our history is not lost."

A Crop Trust representative connected with Cherokee Nation last year after the tribe's seed bank program was highlighted on National Public Radio. The vault is owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food and is a partner with Crop Trust. It was built to outlast the worst case scenario. It opened in 2008 and can store up to 2.5 million seeds. Cherokee Nation will be part of the largest seed deposit since the vault's opening, pushing the seed samples from

Cont. On Page 15

Across

2. Yuku
5. Tuwa
6. Lepena
8. Tsivot
10. Yooyoki
11. Poovohlhoya
12. Qa'e
14. Talvi
15. Qömvi
16. Paati
17. Morivosi
19. Iyohoo

Down

1. Navaya
3. Maakya
4. Sakwa
7. Melooni
9. Paqavi
13. Peena
14. Tsawna
18. Nuva

Cross Word Puzzle

Find the English words
for the Hopi words.

Answers for February 5th edition

2. Fear, 5. Peach, 7. Ember, 9. Invite, 10. House, 11. Star, 12. Bat, 13. Worm, 15. Belly, 18. Cat
Down

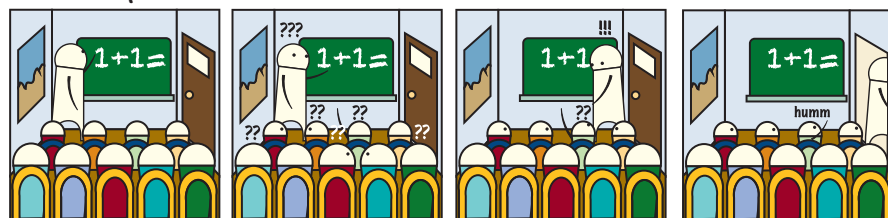
1. Yacca, 3. Gravy, 4. Friend, 5. Potato, 6. Hunt, 8. Girl, 10. Hot, 12. Boy, 14. Meat, 15. Bag

Call 928-734-3283 for hints or answers

Answers in next issue

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by: Carl Onsae

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A K Y A K T A Y N A W A K N A K A H I
N W X N G U A F B U I H T I Y W W I S
Y A F M L N J I W O Q I U W K A S M N
A K W U D O W N P L A M T A U N U U G
W W A P T S I W P U N U U Q N G T V W
G A G K B U A B D G A Y Y Y U W Y A A
N N A O U N I Y Z F A T Q U H T A T T
A G Y Y N A A W A K N A A T P O W A U
W W T O K G N I G J I S W U Z Y G V N
K A A H X W T U N G L A I T L A N I G
A Y N N B A W C K N A A T Q A H A I L
V N U Q A N A O N A A N K O L I W S A
M A T S U Y A K N A T I V I I W K X Y
I U N A N G W A W F D I T Y A L A S T
T U S K Y A P I W T A T W I K L A P A

WORDS

Himuva - *Acquire*

Kwangwa'yna - *Allure*

Qanaona - *Ambitious*

Tunös'unagwa -

Appetites

Tutuyqawi - *Avaricious*

Tu'i - *Buy*

Palkiwa - *Crave*

Tungla'i - *Desire*

Tumokviptsa - *Dream*

Aasa' - *Enough*

Qanaani - *Envious*

Kwangwa'ytuswa - *Envy*

Hoyokpu - *Excess*

Salayti - *Fulfilled*

Hunukya - *Glutton*

Ngua - *Grasp*

Tutuyqawi - *Greedy*

Himuyta - *Have*

Tuskyap'iwta - *Mania*

Unangwaw - *Miser*

Siiva - *Money*

Haqta - *Need*

Kisngwa - *Neighbor*

Wuwni - *Notion*

Awpoi - *Owe*

Kwiivi - *Particular*

Takuna - *Pig Out*

Kwangwtoya - *Rapacity*

Tsu'yakna - *Sated*

Wilokna - *Slack*

Aptsiwpu - *Sufficient*

Kwankwangwayna -

Tempt

Tuwanta - *Try*

Naawakna - *Want*

Kyaktaynawakna - *Wish*

For

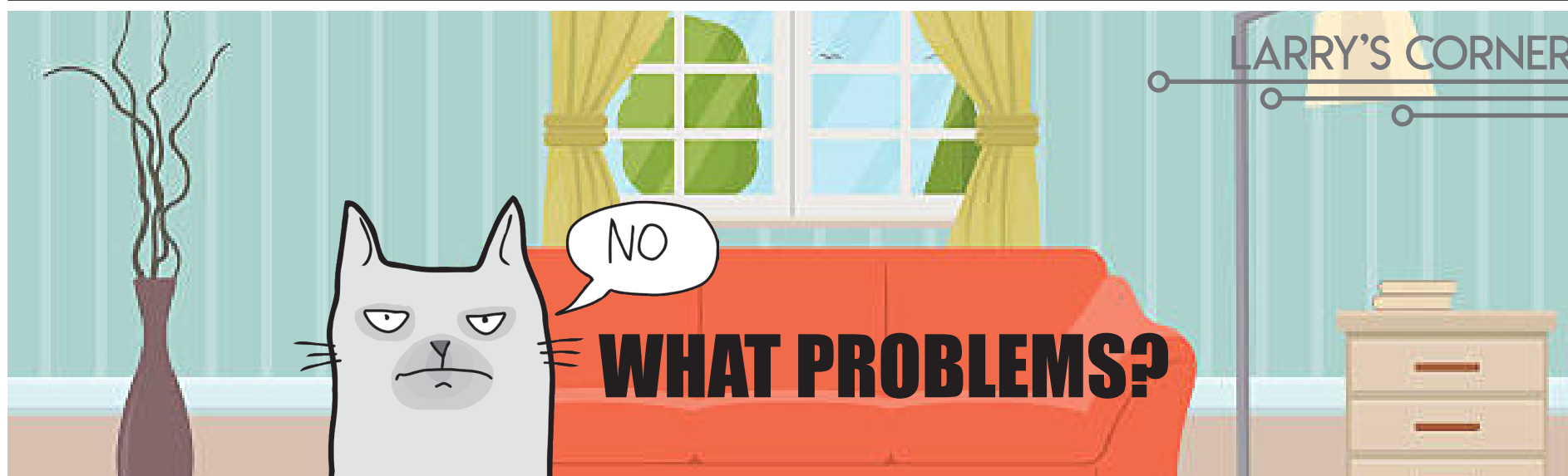
Tunglayta - *Yearn*

Tunatya - *Yen*

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By LARRY The CAT
The Hopi Tutuveni

Hopi has a lot of problems, and what I mean is that we have a lot of family problems, whether it's an uncle who is drunk all the time or a daughter not taking care of her kids, or a father who is not paying child support, Hopi has a lot of problems. But we are not alone with these problems, it may seem like a "third world problem", but it's a worldwide problem.

Yes I know our stereotypical side of "Natives are always drunk all the time" is how some in the western society sees us. And yes, we do have a drug problem on Hopi as well, but that's just what the outside world sees. They don't see why we have these problems that perhaps the uncle had severe childhood problems that no one is addressing cause there is limited help for him, that's why he "medicating" himself by being drunk "all the time", or the fact that a mother is trying her best to take care of her children but maybe she was not taught the importance of life so she resorts to leaving them in hopes to better herself so her children won't see her struggle, or the fact that

a father is trying to pay child support but one family member does not want him around to see his own kids. It may seem that we have everything under control but sometimes we just need help, and that's ok, to ask for help.

When I was growing up on the reservation, I was blind to these problems and never knew that they ever existed and, well, not because I didn't want to see the problems but because my parents protected me from these problems even if they were present on the Hopi reservation. It wasn't until I was in high school that I became aware of these problems and that these are real problems that could have a solution, too.

Now I'm not one to say that I'm a trained cat psychologist but I found out by myself that I could cope with difficult situations at hand by simply not stressing over the little things. I figure we are only on this borrowed land for a short while, I might as well not stress out over everything and that should not be first priority, but instead looking to the future of everything in a good way. Although, there are times that some problems seem very difficult that there is no end to it, but like I said,

there is always a solution to any problem - no matter how difficult.

With this in mind, we have programs that do address some of these problems but with very limited help or staff, and it seems to me, the Hopi tribal council puts these problems on the back burner. It also seems that our council men and women don't want to address the biggest problem so it becomes an open ended problem that no one wants to take the "reigns" aka leadership on.

So my question to you is how would you solve this problem without resorting to getting outside help? How does one village solve an epidemic of drug, alcohol, and domestic abuse? Do we wait for someone to come up with a solution? Or do we as a Hopi society come together and "help" those who are abusing the use of the word "epidemic".

As so'oh (grandmother) always said, it takes the whole village to perform a ceremony, and everyone has to have the same thought, the same mindset of goodness in their hearts to make happiness happen. And when everyone comes together for a single purpose you will see the people singing with joy.

So, if we applied that same concept to our "modern" problems maybe we can see some good come out of it. Now I'm not saying that it will work overnight, it may take time to solve our problems, which is true everywhere.

My advice to you is that modern problems are a part of Hopi's culture now but it doesn't mean that we should look to an outside source for help; we can solve our own problems, the Hopi way.

Hopis are a resilient people, we've lasted over 500 years of outsiders trying to conquer us, they tried to convert us to another religion, they wanted to wipe our language away, they wanted to make us to be more "civilized" but we've held strong. Look at us today, we still speak the Hopi language, we still perform our cultural dances every year, we are a strong people that can handle any situation, so if it takes us another 500 years to conquer our modern "epidemic problems", so be it. Just make sure we can all still be invited to a pizza party in the end...but what do I know, I'm just a cat...

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Two Arizona witnesses, two very different views at border wall hearing



Tohono O'odham Chairman Ned Norris Jr., left center, said construction of the border wall is threatening sacred and environmentally sensitive sites near his reservation, which straddles the U.S.-Mexico border. But Arivaca rancher Jim Chilton, far right, says a wall is needed to protect his family and his ranch from smugglers. (Photo by Joshua Gerard Gargiulo/Cronkite News)

**By Joshua Gerard Gargiulo
Cronkite News**

WASHINGTON – Two Arizonans from two points on the border brought two very different ideas about the border wall to a congressional hearing Thursday.

While Tohono O'odham Chairman Ned Norris Jr. repeated his opposition to the wall and the damage it's causing sacred sites, Arivaca rancher Jim Chilton said the wall is needed to protect his land and his family.

"The 25-mile open gap between the west end of the current wall near Nogales, and the east end of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge wall is a major route for cartel drugs and people smuggling," Chilton told a House Homeland Security subcommittee. "Over 200 trails come through our ranch and it is very hard to detect people."

But Norris, testifying to a House committee for the second time in as many days, said the wall is the wrong solution in the wrong place, splitting his reservation in two and running over

culturally and environmentally important sites.

"It is needlessly destructive when there are more efficient technologies that can control the border without damaging the religious, cultural and environmental resources on which our members rely," Norris said.

They were among four witnesses at the hearing called to examine "the effect of the border wall on private and tribal landowners."

Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-N.Y., said in an opening statement that two-thirds of the southern border is privately owned. In its rush to build the wall, she said, the Trump administration will use the government power of eminent domain "at a historically high level to strip landowners of their property and, in many cases, cause damage to their livelihoods."

Nayda Alvarez, who owns property on the border in Roma, Texas, said she has "been intimidated by the government to sign over rights to our land."

"We have been talked down

to by government officials who think we are not aware of our rights, with no respect for excruciating life events we were experiencing," Alvarez said. "When my mother was on her deathbed, government officials continued to call ... I had to remind these individuals my mother was dying of cancer in order to stop the calls."

But agency officials are pressing to meet President Donald Trump's pledge in his State of the Union address this month to have "substantially more than 500 miles" of the border wall completed by early next year.

The Department of Homeland Security has waived environmental and other regulations to speed construction of the wall, including waivers on more than 90 miles of border in Arizona last year alone. DHS also waived contracting regulations last week for border wall projects.

The Congressional Research Service reported in January that the \$4.5 billion Congress has appropriated for border wall construction since Trump took office

is \$2 billion more than the total appropriated from fiscal 2007 to fiscal 2016.

That does not include more than \$6 billion the administration shifted from Defense Department construction and counterdrug funds last year, or the \$3.8 billion it shifted in from Pentagon projects in February.

Norris testified that construction crews in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument are pressing ahead with controlled blasting, often with little or no notice to the Tohono O'odham who consider the land adjoining their reservation as sacred.

Rep. Debbie Lesko, R-Peoria, said after the hearing that it is a challenge to "secure the border but also protect private property and Native American Indian tribe lands." But the border wall needs to be built, she said.

That was echoed by Chilton, whose testimony included photos of the four-strand barbed-wire fence that serves as a border barrier on his property but that "even an 80-year old rancher can climb under or over." Chilton,

a fifth-generation rancher, also showed video of cartel caravans crossing his ranch.

He said a wall is needed at the border, criticizing Border Patrol's strategy to "focus on attempts of interdiction 10, 20 and over 100-miles inside the United States rather than the international boundary."

"The Tucson station Border Patrol, with approximately 650 agents and 27 agents per mile, is located 80 miles from the ranch border," he said. "Would a football team ever win a game, if on defense the team lined up 10-yards behind the line of scrimmage?"

While Chilton wants more presence at the border, Alvarez said her fence is more often crossed by government agents than by migrants.

"At night, what do I get? I get Border Patrol jumping fences in full gear, with AR-15s, night-vision, walking all over the property," she said. "So, what do I need a fence for, if I have these people going all over my property protecting me?"



An extreme shock: ASU students describe chaotic return from China due to coronavirus



ASU students, from left, Kylie Kennelly, Edward Witte, Margaret Zheng and Ryan Featherston visit Sun Yat Sen Mausoleum in Nanjing, China, before their study abroad program was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. (Photo courtesy of Maggie Zheng)

By Hannah Foote
Cronkite News

LOS ANGELES — Study-abroad student Margaret Zheng was va-

cationing in Taiwan when she learned she had seven days to return to the United States, abandoning her studies in China, because of safety concerns about

the spread of COVID-19.

Panicked, the 22-year-old Arizona State University senior in biomedicine reached out to friends and family to decide whether

to risk returning to China to gather her belongings, or return to the U.S. without them.

Program officials discouraged her from returning for her things, so Zheng flew home to Arizona on Feb. 5. Two days later, she signed a document stating there is no guarantee of recovering her belongings.

Zheng and two other students in the ASU Chinese Language Flagship program interviewed by Cronkite News said they have not received their belongings or reimbursements for their unplanned flights home. Four Flagship students in Nanjing were affected.

Overall, eight ASU students studying in China have returned home.

ASU students in the Flagship program in Nanjing were told Jan. 29 to leave China due to an increased risk from the novel coronavirus, which had

been discovered the month before, according to university officials. Program faculty and staff were not evacuated because they are from Nanjing University, according to the students.

Nanjing, with a population of roughly 8.3 million, is 550 miles east of the city of Wuhan, the epicenter of COVID-19. The virus, with 80,980 confirmed cases in 50 countries, has killed 2,762 people globally according to the Feb. 26 World Health Organization report.

Flagship is one of many ASU study abroad programs, including summer programs, that were canceled amid safety concerns about the coronavirus. Most ASU students studying in China returned home earlier this month. Flagship did not respond to requests for an interview.

Students enrolled in the Flagship program typically complete it within five

years, four years taking classes at the respective state university and one capstone year in China. In the capstone year, students spend one semester, from September to January, taking Mandarin classes in Nanjing and the second semester interning in Mandarin for a company within their chosen field.

Before beginning the second semester, Zheng said, the program offers a break during the Chinese New Year, which typically draws the largest crowds of the year. However, with the spread of COVID-19, things were much different this year.

“During the busiest time in China, it felt like the whole country was empty,” she said. “Usually during the New Year, you would go house hopping and say blessings to relatives but this year, no one was allowed to visit friends or family. **Cont. On Page 16**

Hot planet: January 2020 was warmest January in 141 years of records, NOAA says



The NOAA says Northern Hemisphere snow coverage in January was the 18th-smallest in 54 years of keeping records. (Photo by Jordan Evans/Cronkite News)

By Isabella Hulsizer
Cronkite News

PHOENIX — Last month was Earth’s warmest January on record, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports, and that was true in Arizona, where January 2020’s average temperature was 3.2 degrees above the historic average.

Across the United States, it was the fifth warmest January in 141 years of climate records, the NOAA reported Feb. 13. Temperatures were above average in the Southwest, it said, and almost the entire East Coast experienced “much above average” temperatures.

The four warmest Januaries documented in the climate record have occurred since 2016, the NOAA said, and the 10 warmest all have occurred since 2002.

Although Arizona’s 2020 January temperature rose 3.2 degrees above the historic average, the increases in Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff were less than 1 degree.

“We try to look at the longer term,”

Cont. On Page 16

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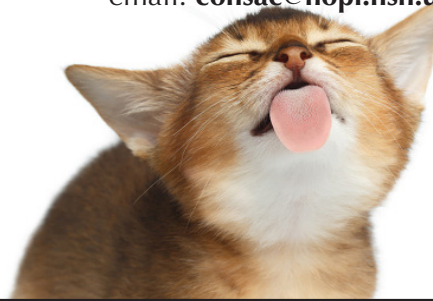
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The Hopi Tutuveni welcomes original articles reporting on local, state and national news items on issues related to Hopi or of interest to Tutuveni readers. We are especially interested in articles reporting on issues impacting the Hopi community or on events and activities involving members of the Hopi Tribe. Articles should not exceed 750 words and should follow Associated Press (AP) style and formatting. The Managing Editor reserves the right to edit articles for style, length and clarity. If significant editing is required, the Managing Editor will communicate with the author prior to publication.

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Press releases must be submitted on official letterhead and include the name of the organization, contact person, telephone number and email address. Press releases should not exceed 500 words and submissions may be edited for length and clarity at the discretion of the Managing Editor.

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and the headline and date of the article on which you are commenting. Anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be published. The Tutuveni Editorial Board reviews all submissions and reserves the right not to publish letters it considers to be highly sensitive or potentially offensive to readers, or that may be libelous or slanderous in nature.

OPINION EDITORIALS:

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Scientists have long warned about link between pandemics and climate change, Cont.

especially piñon pine nuts. There was enough food for the deer mice to populate. The CDC said there were 10 times more mice in May 1993 than in May 1992. With more deer mice around, the hantavirus could be carried and transmitted to humans. The winds in the Four Corners also played a role, Seneca said.

One study by B. Hjelle and G.E. Glass found that the two instances of hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome breaking out in the Four Corners Region in 1993-1994 and 1998-1999 was a result of El Niño.

Finding the source of the hantavirus just shows how Indigenous people know the environment and their communities, Seneca said.

A study released in 2015 examined the weather-infectious disease relationship of studies between 1990 and 2015. It found a dramatic change in the environment “can potentially change the dynamics of human infectious diseases by impacting pathogens, vectors/hosts, or transmission routes.”

Similar weather patterns in the Four Corners happened in West Africa when the 2014-2016 Ebola Virus Disease broke out. It was dry and heavy rainfall hit, which led to fruit growth. Animals like

bats and apes gathered to eat the fruit. Scientists suspect fruit bats were the cause.

“With climate change expected to put increasing pressure on food security in Africa, food shortages will push more people to alternative food sources and consumption of bushmeat, like bats, will likely increase,” said scientist Kris Murray at EcoAlliance in an interview with the Earth Institute. Bushmeat derives from wild animals like bats, monkeys, cane rats and antelope. Monkeys and rats are common. Another study stated that in rural villages in Africa, the droughts, economic hardship, unemployment and soil has locals turning to wildlife hunting and trading bushmeat.

Due to human activities like deforestation, animals’ habitats are being destroyed and the only place left for them to go is near humans. (Case in point: the recent fires in the Amazon rainforest for farmers.) This increases the likelihood of humans interacting with animals and animals can pass germs (like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites) to humans. This is called a zoonotic disease and makes people ill, according to the CDC.

The increase in urbanization of people has also led to a greater risk of disease transmission. Peo-

ple want to move from the rural areas to the cities for jobs and in some areas, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers find homes in overcrowded and unsanitary areas, according to the World Health Organization.

“A really important message that we advocate is that protecting the environment will help protect ourselves from a range of natural disasters, including disease,” Murray said.

Other extreme weather patterns, like floods, can lead to malnutrition, crop failure, starvation, an increase in people being displaced, and fighting over resources, says the 2015 study.

Floods also “provide breeding grounds for insects and cause water contamination, leading to the spread of diarrheal diseases like cholera,” wrote Renee Cho at Earth Institute. It also can lead to a shortage of clean water.

Another question scientists ask is if pathogens, or infectious diseases, can survive the temperatures of a warming planet?

The 2015 study states this is “challenging” because different and dramatic climate shifts in humidity, dry air, wind, floods, temperature, and precipitation. All of this, including time. “Climate change will continue to affect the health risk for human infectious diseases, limiting some disease

transmission but creating opportunities for others.”

Perhaps what is even more alarming is our immune system’s could be “less effective” as the global temperature rises, according to Time magazine.

When pathogens are introduced to our bodies, we battle with a fever. However, as the planet warms, those same pathogens “that survive—and reproduce—are better adapted to higher temperatures, including those in our bodies. And, with that, one of our body’s primary defense mechanisms diminishes in effectiveness,” wrote Justin Worland after speaking with a professor at Johns Hopkins University’s Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Worland said that the body temperature of bats is slightly higher than humans, 6.4 degrees higher. They’re protected just like we are with our body temperature. They carry tons of pathogens “without suffering from them” and can still carry those pathogens that can hurt humans.

It can also harm Indigenous communities, the very communities who are close to nature.

Indigenous communities are the “most vulnerable and will likely be disproportionately affected by increased disease

proliferation,” wrote Jennifer Zhang, a member of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, and editor for Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development.

The biggest suggestion coming from the 2015 study: adaption.

Adapting includes improving public health programs, providing financial and health care resources, staying updated on scientific projections of infectious diseases, public awareness, understanding the weather changes, promoting a healthy lifestyle, and having early warning systems.

The threats don’t stop there. There are also melting glaciers to worry about because “this will release glacial microbes and viruses that have been trapped and preserved for tens to hundreds of thousands of years.” Researchers discovered hidden viruses, 28 are new viral groups, inside a Tibetan plateau from 15,000 years ago when the water froze.

“Glacier ice harbors diverse microbes, yet the associated viruses and their impacts on ice microbiomes have been unexplored,” wrote the authors.

They say the “in a worst-case scenario, this ice melt could release pathogens into the environment.”

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Cherokee's seeds of life, Cont.

across the world to past 1 million, according to www.croptrust.org. Of the 36 institutions depositing seeds this round, eight are first timers bringing the total number of depositors to 86.

Cherokee Nation Senior Director of Environmental Resources Pat Gwin said depositing the seeds "is a tremendous opportunity and honor for the tribe. Additionally, knowing the Cherokee Nation's seeds will be forever protected and available to us, and us only, is a quite valuable thing indeed."

Each year, Cherokee Nation disperses heirloom seeds to its citizens in Oklahoma and those living across the nation. More than 10,000 seed packets are given out annually to Cherokee citizens. The tribe has a seed bank and a heirloom seed garden that started in 2006.

Many tribes across Indian Country have seed banks and community gardens. In northern New Mexico, the Tesuque Pueblo Seed Bank continues to thrive. It was built in 2011 from recycled materials and is powered by solar power. The seed bank stores traditional pueblo seeds and seeds from other tribal nations. In addition, the small four-person seed bank staff tend to a greenhouse, a gar-

den and an orchard with a variety of apples and berries.

Emigdio Ballon, Inca and Tesuque Pueblo agriculture director, said growing food is important to Indigenous people and for survival. He said preserving traditional foods is key and acknowledged the effort by Cherokee Nation to store seeds in Norway. "When they bring seeds over there, it's because they care, they care for their brothers and sisters and the food for the seven generations," he said.

Svalbard is a small, remote island north of the Arctic Circle off the Norwegian coast. It's about 620 miles from the north pole. More polar bears live there than people, according to the vault's website. Seeds reach the island by plane and are then taken to the vault by vehicle.

The vault was built in a mountainside well above sea level and radiation and humidity levels tend to be naturally low, according to the website. Deposits happen three to four times a year and only once has a depositor taken their seeds out. It happened in 2015 after access to a seed bank was lost in Syria because of civil war, but seeds have since been re-deposited.

"It is a long-term seed storage facility, built to stand

the test of time and the challenge of natural or man-made disasters," the website reads. "The seed vault represents the world's largest collection of crop diversity."

Inside the facility is a tunnel longer than a football field to reach the area where the seeds are stored. Cold air is piped into the vault to make it even colder than naturally. The vault temp is set at 0 degrees Fahrenheit. The mountain rock is dark but walls have been coated with a mixture of plastic fiber and concrete that lightens them up to look like snow. The vault is not meant to be a tourist destination and isn't an eye catcher. A virtual reality and a 360-degree interactive tour is available on the website that shows a glimpse of what's inside.

Hoskin said he hopes a Cherokee citizen visits the vault one day, not to re-collect the seeds under dark circumstances, but to develop a relationship with vault leaders.

"I do hope in the future we have an occasion to visit the seed vault to engage directly with people operating the vault," he said. "It's a significant moment in history and I think is only the beginning of a larger conversation of preserving heirloom seeds used by Indigenous People."

Eastern Cherokee seek to enter commercial gaming, Cont.

is the general manager. "The Cherokee have run and managed that property for many years now. If given the opportunity, the Cherokee would own and operate the facility."

Habeeb said the statement is misleading. "We understand why people in the competitive process would put out misinformation. It is an unbelievable resource. This has nothing to do with protecting any other casinos."

The Eastern Cherokees are hoping to amend the bill to include a competitive process, where the tribe is banking on its success and location just across the Tennessee border with an interstate exit nearby to win a license to operate a casino in the commonwealth. Habeeb expects a competitive bidding process to be put in place. "I think it's extremely unlikely that more than one casino would be granted a license," he said.

Tribal Council Chairman Adam Wachacha is on board with the proposal, and he said most of the council is behind it. "I wouldn't say it's 100 percent. The majority are with it. They need more information and numbers."

The project is still in its infancy, and details about distribution to the tribe still

aren't known, but Wachacha said the property could increase the diversity of its revenue sources. "It'll sustain everything that we have that we're not so dependent on Indian gaming. The main thing is to sustain the revenue that they get."

The Eastern Cherokees' tribal council also approved plans to purchase land near Sevierville, Tenn., and it also awaits Senate approval of a bill to turn land near Chattanooga, Tenn. into trust status for the tribe. The Bristol proposal could fuel rumors of casinos in East Tennessee, as the tribe's land purchase has. Habeeb said that's something that would require a change in Tennessee's constitution. He said the tribe has no plans to pursue gaming in Tennessee. "Gaming is not happening in Tennessee any time soon."

Principal Chief Richard Sneed couldn't be reached for comment, but he has issued a statement and addressed the issue in a Jan. 31 commentary to the tribe's newspaper, The Cherokee One Feather. "At this point the commonwealth of Virginia has a bill before them to grant commercial gaming licenses to operators in five Virginia cities. Following the introduction of this legislation, a study was commissioned to determine best practices and future steps

for Virginia to enter the commercial gaming market," he states. "I am pushing for this legislation to be amended to include that competitive bidding process and that the Virginia legislators consider the (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians') Aboriginal connection to the region, which was also suggested by the (study). I ask for your continued support as we advance this effort, and I look forward to reporting back to the community as this effort progresses."

Sneed said, "I have visited the site along I-81, and I am impressed with its strategic, gateway location that serves a five-state area. It is our wish to bring new tax revenue and jobs to Washington County and the Southwest Virginia region in a positive and impactful way."

Wachacha said that he has seen a lot of support in the communities he represents, particularly to tribal members who have been to college or are going to college. "I think we can manage a lot of these properties with our own members." They also liked diversifying revenue, he said. "We're thinking outside the box."

Sneed continues to oppose Senate Bill S790. Introduced by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), the bill proposes to allow

the Catawbas to establish trust land in North Carolina for a casino. Sneed said in another Feb. 15 statement to the One Feather. "We discussed details (with federal lawmakers) as to why we believe there is no legal pathway for the Catawba Nation to take land, which the (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) can demonstrate are historical Cherokee aboriginal homelands, into trust in North Carolina."

Sneed asks that tribes follow federal law. "The (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) does not oppose fellow federally recognized tribes from moving into the gaming industry. We do, however, oppose tribes from using legislation to bypass the regulations set up to assist federally-recognized tribes, regulations that we and all other tribes must abide by."

Habeeb said that some kind of bill is likely to pass in Virginia, but more changes are to be expected, especially as debates over tax rates and other proposed amendments come up. Wachacha said that regardless of the outcome, seeking to diversify the tribe's revenue sources is a good thing. "It was worth looking into."

An extreme shock': ASU students describe chaotic return from China due to coronavirus, Cont.

Everyone is confined to their homes, and I feel like the country has come to a standstill."

Zheng was in Taiwan meeting with a friend when she received the Jan. 29 email from ASU.

"The news from our program to evacuate immediately came as an extreme shock, especially since none of us had our things back in Nanjing packed," she said. "Everything I have is still in my apartment in Nanjing unpacked, and we're not entirely sure when or if we are going to get those things back."

Flagship staff started to warn the students in early January to wash their hands and wear face masks as the respiratory virus spread in Wuhan, student Kylie Kennelly said. By the end of January, Flagship students traveling on break were advised against returning to mainland China until the end of February, but airlines began canceling flights to and from China.

The stress of leaving China immediately and the cancelation of the Flagship program left Kennelly

worried about her future.

"I personally didn't feel scared of getting the virus," the business senior said. "I was worried about how it was going to affect my future plans. It was anxiety inducing because every day we got different news."

Kennelly said she had dreamed of going to China and completing this program since she was 14 and, although the program did not go according to plan, she is grateful for the experience.

"When I did come back to the States, I realized it wasn't the best thing to bring up that I just came back from China because it elicits a bit of a fearful reaction from the community," Kennelly said. "But, in spite of everything, I'm glad I was able to participate in Flagship for the time that I did."

Another ASU student, Edward Witte, a political science senior, said he was disappointed because ASU is one of only 21 schools that offered the Flagship program.

"Within one week's time, all of my plans

changed," he said. "That has been the most difficult thing to deal with."

As concern about the virus grew in China, security increased drastically from the typical security personnel and X-rays for bags in Nanjing, he said.

"After the news broke about the virus, it was starting to ramp up and they had people in full hazmat suits who would take your temperature," Witte said. "It seemed like it was more difficult to get on the subway than it was to get back to the United States."

The students still are expected to take a proficiency test for a business level certificate, although they will not be completing their spring semester, Witte said.

"Because there's going to be four or five months less of language training, I know that myself and some of the other students are concerned we will not be able to meet the threshold for full certification, which is the goal of the program," he said.

Hot planet: January 2020 was warmest January in 141 years of records, NOAA says, Cont.

said Nancy Selover, the state's climatologist. "And it's (the temperature) been rising."

Selover said last month's temperature rise can be attributed to lower than average precipitation this winter.

"It's not been a really, really dry winter that we've seen in the past, but it's been a little drier than normal," Selover said. "We haven't seen the winter storms come down and dip into the state as much as we would normally see."

Summer monsoon storms can turn around a dry winter, Selover said, but if the spring ends up being dry, too, Arizona could be looking at a busy wildfire season.

Tracking these trends can be tricky because of spikes in the short term, she said.

"You can always cut up a graph into a bunch of tiny, little pieces and, of course, the temperatures will fluctuate up and down. We try not to do that. We try to look at the long term," which gives a better understanding of the changes taking place, Selover said.

Average January temperatures in Arizona

have been rising since the early 1950s.

NOAA — a Commerce Department agency whose mission is "to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others" — said January 2020 marked the 44th consecutive January and the 421st consecutive month with temperatures at least nominally above the 20th-century average. No records for low temperatures were set anywhere, it said.

Asia had the most dramatic increase in temperatures in January, the NOAA said, and in Russia, temperature departures were at least 9 degrees. South America recorded its second highest monthly January temperature.

The Northern Hemisphere's ocean and land temperature rose 2.7 degrees above the historic average, the NOAA said. In addition, Arctic sea ice declined 5.3% below the 1981-2010 average and snow cover across the Northern Hemisphere fell below the 1981-2010 average.



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