CARES Act Committee Reports to Council in Open Session

Romalita Laban, Managing Editor

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – Wednesday, March 24, 2021 and after approximately six months since the last report was provided to the Hopi Tribal Council during one of its session, the CARES Act Committee (CAC) provided verbal updates to the Hopi Tribal Council.

During the Second Quarter Session, the topic addressing Agenda NEW BUSINESS Item 3. “Discussion and Possible Action – Hopi CARES Act Committee’s conduct and expenditure of the COVID-19 Funding received by the Hopi Tribe” and requested by Dale Sinquah, First Mesa Consolidated Villages Representative seated on Hopi Tribal Council was long and arduous and described by some, during the session, as seeming like a hearing.

Carroll Onsae, CAC Chairperson who had recently resigned, along with Beatrice Norton, CAC Member, Dorma Sahneyah Hopi Tribe’s Executive Director, Wilfred Gaseoma Hopi Tribal Treasurer, Carlene Tena- khongva, Office of General Counsel staff, Ken Mason, CAC Consultant and advisor along with Hopi Tribe Department Directors and Managers was present during the Zoom meeting.

Topics and questions spurred from Sinquah’s February 22, 2021 letter which was read into record along with other letters and memoranda not directly from Sinquah himself. Sinquah’s letter addressing “powers of the Tribal Council” and several topics he requested to be addressed including “the authority when the HCC was formed and worked under, as I understood HCC was instructed by Hopi Tribal Council to keep HTC updated through regular reports. My concern is HCC circumvented Hopi Tribal policies, ordinances, and procedures concerning contracts, hiring, and reality to name a few.”

Story Continues on Page 2
Budget Operating Team Presents Action Item for 2021 General Fund Budget and Appropriations Language to Hopi Tribal Council

Romalita Laban, Managing Editor
Hopi Tutuveni

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – On Thursday, March 25, 2021, the Budget Operating Team (BOT), a recommending body to the Hopi Tribal Council, presented its recommendations for the 2021 General Fund Budget and Expenditure Authorization and Appropriations Language to Hopi Tribal Council during the Second Quarter Session addressing the March 1, 2021 AGENDA – AMENDMENT #1, NEW BUSINESS, item 2. The Council session was held via a Zoom meeting link on which a quorum of Council members was present. In addition to Council members being connected, listeners tuning in to the local Native American public radio station, KUYI Hopi Radio at 88.1FM could hear the discussions occurring, as well.

The presentation of Action Item #012-2021 was a continuation from previous presentations held throughout the month of March during which figures were provided to Council who then, by motion, took action to approve certain budget line items, including the amount the BOT recommended for the Hopi Tutuveni to receive General Funds in the amount of $76,836.48.

The presentation was the final portion after review of the Expenditure Authorization and Appropriations had taken place prior with only final edits and changes to be made and which began half-way into the 2 o’clock hour. Council in previous days and over the course of the month had time to review in order to finalize the 2021 Budgeting process, a process which proved to be different and challenging due to having to complete the process and Action Item during the 2020 Pandemic and continuing into 2021.

The normal budgeting process and schedule was delayed because meetings and consultations with departments, programs, Regulated Entities, such as Hopi Tutuveni, the Villages and public could not be conducted in a face-to-face manner due to current Executive Orders and social distancing requirements in place. The unusual pandemic circumstances had the Hopi Tribe operating under a Continuing Resolution until the process could been completed and adopted.

Suffice it to say, the budgeting process was a challenge never seen or known before for the simple fact that it was being conducted via Zoom meetings which provided for technical difficulties, distracting background noises, constant reminders for those on the call to mute their devices and a challenge for ensuring all Council members had the opportunity to ask questions throughout the process.

Many questions were asked about how the CARES Act funding would impact the budget to which reminders would be provided by the BOT to the Council that the only item being presented was a budget for Hopi Tribe’s General Funds and no other funds. Council continued to ask significant questions about how outside funds impacted the General Funds however at the end of the process, still did not receive a comprehensive report, as far as was aired on the radio or during the Zoom meeting, which showed General Funds alongside all other revenues and outside source funding, including CARES Act funds.

On Thursday, March 25, 2021 and after less than an hour of final review Chairman Nuvangyaoma asked for a motion from Council members to which David Talayumptewa, Kyakotsmovi Village Representative made a motion to approve the budget with amendments. No questions were posed to the motion and Action Item #012-2021/H-013-2021 was formally approved with a vote of 19 in favor, 1 opposing and 0 abstaining for Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Budget in the amount of $19,377,055.90

CARES Act Committee Reports to Council in Open Session, Cont.

The discussions seemed to be reminiscent of the September 23, 2020 CAC Report to Council as the same topics ranging from how the CAC Budget had been developed, how many proposals had been awarded and future plans for the continued operations of the modular units recently set up at the newly developed Turquoise Well site located next to the Hardrock community, just inside the Hopi reservation boundaries, and the General Welfare Assistance Program designed to provide assistance to Hopi Tribal members were also resurfaced. Although figures were verbally reported a written report with updated figures, according to Council members, had not been shared with Council members. This seemed to draw a lot of statements of concern being made by Council members and after being notified that all the CAC funding had been depleted.

Discussions lasted well over a couple of hours and into the end of the Tribal Council session and veered into other topics including how plans did not fall within Hopi Tribal Priorities last updated in 2019, whether the CARES Act funding could be de-obligated for the Village of Tewa which had failed to submit required sub-recipients documents and around, as Sinqua described in his letter, “unauthorized unilateral decisions” about the development of the “Turquoise well site” and moving being made by the Hopi Tribal departments and program staff to the site.

Hopi Tutuveni has not received any press releases or invites from the CAC to include updates for the Hopi public in the one and only newspaper of the Hopi Tribe since September 16, 2020. Nor have we received any timelines of any modular setup projects, CAC Budgets or plans.

Hopi Tutuveni readers and community members have been expressing to the Managing Editor that they wish there was more content and substance in the CAC press releases. Perhaps Hopi Tutuveni readers and the public are not aware that the Committee determined that the media should not be allowed at the meetings since shortly after when the CAC was created.

This article is far from complete and a full report out to the public would ensure the public has been fully apprised of all that has occurred via use of the CARES Act funding. The Hopi Tutuveni staff is doing our best to bring vital and important information to the Hopi public about the issue but we have faced shutdowns and all the staff is still not being allowed into the Tutuveni offices by the Executive Director.

Not only have we been trying to access information about the CARES Act funding, we have been reporting since before the pandemic and throughout these very critical times of mitigating, responding, preventing and preparing for any further disasters which may impact the Hopi people. We have even dedicated the middle insert specifically for the Hopi Emergency Operations Center’s information and reach to the public.

We can only do so much to remind others that the one and only Hopi newspaper is part of a democracy where open communication is vital to the public we all serve. That very same public is impacted by decisions being made about federal funding, such as the CARES Act funding, which was meant for the public’s use.

Hopi Tutuveni will not be one of the programs moving to Turquoise well site and due to decisions made by the Managing Editor and Editorial Board after careful review of operations, limited future funding and having the understanding that CARES Act funding was meant for addressing the COVID-19 virus mitigation, recovery and future response needs of the Hopi people.

While we have submitted a proposal to the CAC to cover some printing costs of the COVID-19 related materials being published, the Hopi Tutuveni was not one of the programs which received any of the CARES Act funding. The Hopi Tutuveni continues to operate on recently approved General Funds which is supplemented with Revolving Funds generated through limited advertising revenue which has also been impacted by the world wide pandemic and shutdowns. A notice to the public will be made for its awareness and to provide as much transparency about the operations of the one and only newspaper of the Hopi Tribe. We plan to provide more information on this particular subject in future publications and articles.
WHEREAS, The Constitution and By-laws of the Hopi Tribe, ARTICLE VI POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a) and (b) respectively, authorizes the Hopi Tribal Council to represent and speak for the Hopi Tribe in all matters for the welfare of the tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe is a sovereign tribal nation, responsible to its villages, citizens and members and charged with providing direction for the health and safety of all during a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, in response to COVID-19, the Hopi Tribe implemented a Stay at Home Executive Order, which was extended by subsequent Executive Orders to be effective through March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, as recently as March 15, 2021, data reflects a downward trajectory or near zero percent (5.0%) of positive tests as a percentage of total tests over a 14-day period; and

WHEREAS, based on an analysis of available data, benchmarks have been reached in all thirteen Hopi Villages and Communities that meet the gating criteria recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Phase One Re-Opening; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Hopi Tribe authorizes the Phase One Re-Opening of Hopi, subject to the following:

1. The use of face coverings is required inside all public facilities and buildings, common areas, and outdoor locations where physical distancing is not possible.
2. The Hopi Law Enforcement Services will coordinate with village leaders and village security officers to allow for welfare checks.
3. Hopi villages and regions that satisfy baseline CDC gating criteria are eligible to begin Phase One. In recognition of village sovereignty, re-opening of the various Hopi villages and communities will be left to the administration of each respective village.

IN ADDITION, the following guidelines are strongly recommended:

*Vulnerable Individuals*:
1. Elderly individuals
2. Individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, or those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer, HIV.

4. It is recommended that the Hopi business sector adhere to the following guidelines, in addition to those listed above for Phase One Re-opening:
   - Limit capacity with adherence to the maximum capacity restrictions for COVID-19 and social distancing protocols.
   - Implement screening, and temperature checks for customers, clients and staff.
   - Implement strict Intervention, Prevention, and Control (IPC), cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
   - Implement mechanisms to control flow of traffic within the facility to the extent feasible.

SO ORDERED this 1st day of April 2021.
HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL Second Quarter Session March 1, 2021
AGENDA - AMENDMENT #1

1. Action Item #061-2020 – To approve the settlement agreement in the Hopi Tribe v. United States of America, No. 06-0941 (Fed. Ct of Claims) – Author/Fred Lomayesva, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel – TABLED

XI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Action Item #010-2021 – To procure 2021 Insurance Policies for the Hopi Tribe – Author/Edgar Shupla, Director, Office of Facilities & Risk Management Services
2. Action Item #012-2021 – To approve the FY 2021 General Fund Budget and Expenditure Authorization and Appropriations Language – Author/Wilfred Gaseoma, Treasurer, The Hopi Tribe - **Time Certain – March 8, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.
3. Discussion and Possible Action - Hopi CARES Act Committee’s conduct and expenditure of the COVID-19 Funding received by the Hopi Tribe – Dale Sinquah, Tribal Council Representative, First Mesa Consolidated Villages
4. Discussion and Possible Action – Proposed Alternative to Generate Revenue for the Hopi Tribe – David Talayumptewa, Tribal Council Representative, Village of Kykotsmovi
5. Interviews for Position of Hopi Tribal Secretary (2 applicants) – Clark W. Tenakhongva, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe - **Time Certain – March 22, 2021 starting @ 9:00 a.m.
6. Interviews for Positions on the Hopi Tribal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (2 applicants), Clark W. Tenakhongva, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe - **Time Certain – March 22, 2021 starting @ 1:00 p.m.
7. Appointment of a Member of the Health & Education Committee to serve on Second Mesa Day School Board until Elections are held – Clark W. Tenakhongva, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe

Introduction of Newly Appointed Tribal Secretary

On March 22, 2021, the Hopi Tribal Council selected and appointed Mrs. Judith Youvella as the Tribal Secretary to fulfill the remainder of the current four year term. She will begin on March 29, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Youvella as she begins her duties in working with the Legislative body of the Hopi Tribe. We wish her much success in her new position. She may be reached by telephone in the Office of the Tribal Secretary at (928) 734-3131 and by Email at JYouvella@hopi.nsn.us.

OFFICE CLOSURE
PHONE PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
STARTING Thursday, 03.25.2021, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Check or money order payments will still be accepted by mail, made payable to: The Hopi Tribe, 
***PLEASE indicate the Program Name and Account Number for what services you are paying for***

**********EFFECTIVE 03.23.2021

MASK UP / SOCIAL DISTANCE / STAY HOME

Hopi Tutuveni wants to know how we are doing.
Call or email us to tell us if we are doing a good job. We need your feedback
928-734-3283
April 30, 2021 - 46th Anniversary - End of the Vietnam War

Honoring the Memories

Sharon Fredericks, Counselor – Hopi Vet Center
For Hopi Tutuveni

Hotevilla, Ariz. - March 4, 2021, April 30, 1975 was the official end of the Vietnam War. For the Vietnam Veteran it might seem like yesterday. The Nation has come a long way and now recognizes and honors the Vietnam Vet, both men and women. We are slowly losing them. For families who are fortunate to have their Vietnam Vet in their family, I hope you will respectfully ask them to tell their story. Every Veteran in this Nation has a story. This is one I wrote about two Combat Soldiers who met in war and one who made an impact on the other as a true American Indian Warrior.

Years ago, I met R. Amador at a work event. He told me about an American Indian veteran with whom he served during the Vietnam War. He asked if I could help him find the family. His friend, SSgt Parker had been killed in action March 1970. He knew he was Shoshone from Nevada. It took me a while and lots of phone calls and finally someone who knew a possible contact.

Mr. Amador learned of SSgt Parker’s death through the internet. Shocked and in disbelief he began the slow process of mourning his loss. Staff Sgt. Parker and Sgt. Amador served with the 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173 Airborne Brigade. They were 11B, Light Weapons Infantry. Sgt. Amador served as a fire team leader, then as a Squad leader from 1968 to 1969.

Mr. Amador was raised Latino in a Southern Arizona town. He roamed the nearby mesas and grew to love the desert. When he found an arrowhead, he imagined the Indians who inhabited the land before anyone else. He thought how tough they had to be to survive a harsh environment and might have walked the very place he stood.

After High School he joined the Army and was sent to Vietnam. He was 19. He remembered his first three months as intense. It was the first time he experienced heavy combat. It was out in the bush with his platoon that he met Staff Sgt. Parker. Parker was a Squad leader and a seasoned combat soldier by the time Amador met him. They became friends and Amador developed a deep respect for him. Amador sensed his inner strength and although he was quiet, he was an effective leader and always took good care of his men.

During a reunion another soldier with the 173rd described SSgt Parker as “a man of few words” who taught him how to walk point, how to be one with the land, how to fold the elephant grass without a rustle while on patrol. He also described how he sensed Parker had a powerful inner strength, confidence and peace.

When Amador learned of the death, all the memories came flooding back. Memories that included the mission on September 13, 1968, the day they lost half of their Company. Amador was carrying the machine gun and walked in Third platoon. Parker was in the Second platoon when they walked into an ambush. The intensity of enemy firepower was tremendous and lasted 15 hours, killing 12 and wounding 49. Parker and Amador were among the survivors, but the next day ten more soldiers became psychological casualties.

With the information Amador provided, I made some connections with a Kiowa in McDermott Nevada. The next day L. Jackson, Parkers cousin called me. He was also a Vietnam Vet. He was one of the pallbearers for Parker’s funeral. They buried SSgt Parker with full military honors. Sgt. Jackson was in awe, “I’ve never seen anything like that, it was something!” Parker was serving his second tour when he was killed by hostile fire. After Amador left Vietnam, he did not know Parker had signed up for another tour. Amador and Parker’s cousin connected, Mr. Jackson was able give Amador more insight about his friend and how he lived before Vietnam.

Parker’s parents had passed long before he enlisted, and his grandmother took care of him and his brother. After the death, she took it hard.

Amador learned that Parker died in what could have been an ambush. His discussions with his cousin reminded him about Parker’s character remembering the times he spent with the strong, quiet soldier. He said he always felt safe around him and Parker always had a sense of peace even though they were far removed from anything that represented peace.

Talking with Parker’s cousin, Amador was able to find healing for himself. Jackson and Amador shed many tears when speaking of their brother in arms. As a counselor, Amador knew first-hand the effects of traumatic experiences brought on by war.

Later, Veteran Sgt. Amador remarked, “Meeting your group has changed my life and allowed me to find peace. Serving with an American Indian Warrior in both good times and bad, has filled my spirit and has helped me as a therapist to broaden my insight to learn what a true warrior is.”

The 173rd was only a brigade size unit but lost over 1,700 men during the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1972. Those who fought beside soldiers killed in action remember them and they will not be forgotten. There were 235 American Indians killed, missing or captured during that war from 1963 to 1971. The number represents men who claimed their native blood at the time. Helping someone find healing from this connection, I am honoring my own Hopi Vietnam veterans and Hopi K.I.A.

If you’ve ever attended a pow-wow, you know that the first song sung is for veterans. It is rightfully a place of honor.
HJSHS Athletic Calendar has been Canceled for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, Guardians, and Hopi Community Members,

Out of an abundance of caution and based on Hopi Jr./Sr. High School (HJSHS) staying with its distance-learning format for the foreseeable future, the HJSHS Governing Board officially canceled the 2020-2021 spring athletic seasons during the regularly scheduled March board meeting. Decisions to cancel activities and opportunities for our students they provide are extremely difficult. However, the direction became clear based on feedback from stakeholders, staff, tribal leadership, healthcare professionals, along with the lack of other area schools at both the High School and Jr. High levels participating in activities this spring. Please know that the safety of our students and community are at the forefront of all decisions made by HJSHS.

Based on the decision, the entire HJSHS athletic calendar has been canceled for the 2020-2021 school year. This includes both the High School and Jr. High levels. HJSHS will review data, continue discussions, and seek feedback from students, parents/guardians, staff, community members, and tribal leadership throughout the next couple of months as we evaluate the possibility of summer activities and prepare for the 2021 fall athletic seasons.

HJSHS reminds everyone to stay at home, mask up around all individuals that do not reside within your household, practice good hygiene procedures, and stay socially distant. It takes all of us following these protocols faithfully to continue the recent reduction in spread within our communities. Let’s stay diligent Bruins!

Yours In Education,

Lynn Fredericks
Mrs. Lynn Fredericks
Hopijr./Sr. High School
High School Principal

Mr. Rickey Greer
Hopijr./Sr. High School
Activities Coordinator

The Natwani Coalition’s Community Grant Program Now Accepting Requests for Proposals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kyle Nutumya, Natwani Coalition Program Associate

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – March 11, 2021
For a third consecutive year, the Natwani Coalition will be offering the Community Grant Program which consists of two (2) grant opportunities for the Hopi & Tewa community. The Micro Grant Program and the Partnership Capacity Building Grant. A total amount of $10,000.00 is available to disperse at $500.00 per award for the Micro Grant Program. A single award amount of 25,000 is available for the Partnership Grant. Both grants shall fund projects from the community focused on (1) sustainable methods of agriculture, (2) supporting healthy food distribution & consumption, and (3) preserving traditional food & farming knowledge.

Micro Grant Program
Award Amount – $500.00
Awards Available – 20
Eligible Applicants

• Hopi & Tewa tribally enrolled members
• Village Administrators & Staff members representing their Village, Senior and/or Youth programs;

Partnership Capacity Building Grant
Award Amount – $25,000.00
Awards Available – 1
Eligible Applicants

• Organizations based on the Hopi Reservation servicing the Hopi & Tewa Community;
• Village Administrators & Staff members representing their Village, Senior and/or Youth programs;
• Community Programs that provide a public service through their demonstration of their work in food, farming, growing, or ranching.

The Hopi Foundation office remains closed to the public following safety guidelines due to the pandemic. For grant applications and grant guidelines visit www.natwanicoalition.org/cgp

Application submissions are due April 9, 2021 by 5:00pm.

For more information you may contact Natwani Coalition Program Associate – Kyle Nutumya knutumya@hopifoundation.org at the office at: (928)734-2380 or on work cell at: (928) 514-8515

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Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039 to subscribe

□ $40 for 1 year 24 issues on Reservation
□ $25 for 6 months 12 issues on Reservation
□ $60 for 1 year 24 issues off Reservation
□ $40 for 6 months 12 issues off Reservation
Tourism Planning effort Underway for Hopi
A Group of Tourism Advocates Plan for the Future

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Brian Cole, Building Communities

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. - March 29, 2021
Although the tourism industry has been severely impacted by the worldwide pandemic, a group of tourism advocates and planners has been meeting at Hopi since July of 2019 to plan for the future of the visitor industry.

The group, known as the Hopi Tourism Cohort, has overseen the development of the Hopi Tourism Strategic Plan which identifies organizational, marketing and tourism improvement projects designed to create jobs and diversify the Hopi economy while protecting the custom, culture, and tradition of Hopi.

The work has been overseen by the Hopi Office of Community Planning and Economic Development (OCPED) under a federal grant awarded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The grant served to engage the services of Building Communities, a community and economic development strategic planning firm that has served the Hopi Tribe and its villages on a variety of projects over the past four years.

The Strategic Plan was completed in November 2020 and made a series of recommendations and policy guidance.

The recommendations of the Strategic Plan include:
1) Improvement/creation of one or more Hopi-oriented websites
2) Determination of the relative support for tourism and events on a Village-by-Village basis
3) Development of a Visitor Center/Welcome Center
4) Increased networking with state and national tourism entities
5) Development of a network of restroom facilities
6) Provision of potable water at restroom areas
7) Creating an organizational structure that separates tourism development and promotion from central government
8) Development of parking/rest areas
9) Improvement of cellular and Wi-Fi infrastructure

Another priority is promoting Hopi artists and private arts and crafts businesses.

As the Strategic Plan was completed, the Hopi Tourism Cohort turned its attention to the implementation of the plan. Building Communities brought forth a recommendation that the Cohort could collaborate with the Moenkopi Developers Corporation (MDC) to submit a “Tourism Strategic Plan Implementation Grant” to USDA Rural Development. That grant was submitted and awarded to MDC.

The five objectives of the “Implementation Grant” include: 1) development and maintenance of a Hopi tourism website, 2) creating a Hopi tourism organizational structure, 3) networking with state and national tourism associations, 4) organizing and promoting Hopi tour operators, and 5) locating sites and describing development requirements for essential tourism facility development (visitor center/welcome center, restroom facilities, parking/rest areas, garbage/waste receptacles).

Over the past three months, the Cohort has focused on the establishment of a new Hopi tourism non-profit organization that would serve to implement the Strategic Plan.

The Cohort, which now meets twice per month, is seeking volunteers to serve on the new non-profit Board of Directors. The meetings are held at 3 pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Individuals interested in submitting their name for consideration by the Cohort to establish the new Board should email Brian Cole of Building Communities at bc@buildingcommunities.us. Individuals interested in volunteering on the Cohort can also express their interest at the same email address.

Hopí CHR Community Information
When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated

COVID 19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

After you’ve been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more.

You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.

WHAT HAS CHANGED
If you’ve been fully vaccinated:
You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with a non-household member or who lives with a person at increased risk)
You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.
If you do travel off reservation, you’ll still need to follow CDC requirements and recommendations.
You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you’ve been around someone who is sick.
If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace.

Hopi HERT
(928) 734-3661
After Hours
(928)205-7295

Hopí Health Care Center
COVID-19 HOTLINE
(928)737-6188

Hopí Health Care Center
APPOINTMENT
(928)737-6049/6081

HOPI CHR Program
HOPí Medical Transportation Program
(928)737-6342
(928)737-6351
For the COVID-19 vaccines, overall effectiveness has been reported in the range of 70% to 95%. That’s well above the average effectiveness of the flu vaccine, for example. Not only do these vaccines appear to lessen risk of developing COVID-19, but they also appear to lessen the risk of severe disease. In large clinical trials, most side effects have been minor. When side effects occur, they typically last just a few days. A side effect or reaction isn’t necessarily all bad, by the way; it may indicate that the body is building protection against the virus. Common side effects include: 1.) pain at the site of the injection; 2.) painful, swollen lymph nodes in the arm where the vaccine was injected; 3.) overall fatigue; 4.) headache. It’s normal to feel cautious about any new treatment. But two common misconceptions may encourage people to avoid getting a COVID vaccine. When health problems develop soon after vaccination, people tend to blame the vaccine. Yet cancer, strokes, heart attacks, blood disorders, and rare illnesses occurred before the pandemic, and will of course continue to happen. If a person develops COVID-19 soon after vaccination, it’s not due to the vaccine. No live SARS-CoV-2 virus is used in currently available vaccines or those in development.

When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated - How to protect yourself and others.
COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

We’re still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you’ve been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions – like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces – in public places until we know more.

These recommendations can help you make decisions about daily activities after you are fully vaccinated. They are not intended for healthcare settings.

Here is a quick overview of the COVID-19 statistics on a national, state, and local level:
As of this date – April 5, 2021
The United States now has approximately 30.52 million confirmed positive cases with 40,601 new cases and over 554,064 deaths reported.
Over 845,840 confirmed positive cases now exist in Arizona. Of those, close to 15,746 are in Navajo County alone.
The Hopi Health Care Center has tested over 8,9267 patients to this date. Over 1,379 of those tests at Hopi Health Care Center came back positive with 999 from Hopi Tribal members. Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation reported 269 positives for Hopi Villages with a combined number of 1268 positive Hopi Tribal members.
The information below provides a glimpse of the current numbers in those respective villages.
The information by villages presented above is released by the Hopi Department of Health & Human Services, and the data shown reflects patients tested at the Hopi Health Care Center and at the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation specifically on Hopi tribal members. The data from Lower and Upper Munqapi is consolidated until specific data can be re-verified. (+) number decreased due to individual being identified from another village. The community of residence for one Hopi Tribal member who tested positive at HHCC is in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The community of residence for four Hopi Tribal members who tested positive at HHCC is in Winslow. The data here does not include all state-wide data from other facilities such as Flagstaff, Winslow, Phoenix or other hospitals.
*Note: These data include newly added testing results from the Abbott ID NOW machine since April 20, 2020
** A total of 1268+ individuals who tested positive are members of the Hopi Tribe.
+ Includes Village member(s) retested positive
Prevention:
Watch for symptoms. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:
• Cough
• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
• Or at least two of these symptoms:
• Fever
• Chills
• Repeated shaking with chills
• Muscle pain
• Headache
• Sore throat
• Congestion or runny nose
• Nausea or vomiting
• Diarrhea
• New loss of taste or smell
Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness.
This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

**MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**
as best as you can with proper diet, adequate sleep and exercise, and social interaction with loved ones at home or online.

**AVOID BAD MEDIA**
Learn the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage of news that you find upsetting.

**SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP**
for physical and mental health needs instead of using smoking, alcohol, or drugs to cope.

**REACH OUT FOR ASSISTANCE**
If you need a little help when facing life’s adversities, please don’t hesitate and call us.

**THE HOPI TRIBE**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
(928) 737-1600 or (928) 734-3401 or (928) 737-6342

**Hopi COVID-19 Reported Cases by Hopi Health Care Center Cases* April 5, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases per Village as of April 5, 2021</th>
<th>Reported by HHCC</th>
<th>Reported by Tuba City Regional Healthcare Corporation</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kiqotsmovi</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orayvi</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polacca (Walpi-Sitsom'ovi-Tewa)</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>283+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musangnuvi</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supavlavi</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>59+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songopavi</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>219+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuwelupaki</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paagvi</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotvela</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>165+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keams Canyon</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagstaff</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muqapi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>174+</td>
<td>175+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winslow</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>999</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>1268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This graph demonstrates that cases per day stratified by village with a total case line and rolling seven-day line. This graph gives the total of positive cases for the day in a blue bar graph. The red line is the moving 7-day incidence average and demonstrates the general trend of Covid-19 of the community.

**Vaccine Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Population Estimate</th>
<th>Number Vaccinated*</th>
<th>Percent population vaccinated</th>
<th>Percent relative to the average</th>
<th>Vaccine Ranking Highest=1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacavi</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>42.57%</td>
<td>91.84%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotevilla</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>46.04%</td>
<td>99.33%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiqotsmovi</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>134.2%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushongovi</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>75.29%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moenkopi</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>47.38%</td>
<td>102.22%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlivi</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>67.31%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shungopavi</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>47.28%</td>
<td>102%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sipalwavi</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>95.36%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polacca</td>
<td>1,908</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>46.69%</td>
<td>100.73%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>7304**</td>
<td>3,386</td>
<td>46.52%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Table looks at both cases per capita for the Tribe and persons that have received at least one dose of the vaccine since the beginning of the pandemic. The village populations were calculated from the enrollment data from the tribe, and are simply a rough estimate. The most important feature of the table is the percent relative to the average for vaccination to target our implementation. The table is colored coded with red being greater than 5% below average, yellow being within 5% of average, and green being greater than the 5% above average.

*Excludes the vaccines from Keams Canyon, Spider Mound, and those calculated as Second Mesa. The three groups combine for another 320 Hopi Tribal members who have received at least the first dose of the vaccine.

Total reservation percent vaccinated ~50.74%

Eligible population vaccinated ~57.87%

For questions or more information, please call The Hopi Tribe, Department of Health & Human Services (928) 734-3402.
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CONSAE@HOPI.NSN.US OR 928-734-3281
Well, we made it! We made it past 1 year of our anniversary of not working in a “normal” work environment. Well, I’m not complaining that staying home is pretty cool and all but I miss my normal work buddies, my normal “bad for your back” office chair. I miss working at a Tribal level where we can say “I’ll look into that” and never do. I miss all those stereotypical things you say about a Tribal government.

So, 2020 was a year that everyone will try to forget, we lost so many loved ones and we lost our sanity in the process. Some of us pulled through the past year and we are still continuing to pull through 2021, as well. We were given rules that were meant to protect us, but we’re Hopis, rules don’t apply to us. We think that those are white man’s rules, we don’t need them. We were given warnings by both spiritual and non-spiritual beings but we ignored their warnings, and we were given a proposition to either keep well or to…well you know.

As of this year, we are already in the 4th month and it seems we are still in that vibe of 2020. I know people want to have a normal life again but let’s face it, the year 2020 changed the world. I can’t speak for everyone, but some say it changed it for the better. They said that our past lives were not working so it needed a change. Others say it changed it for the worst, while others idled by just waiting for their sign to come so they can join the others, I guess.

Yes, the Hopi people are trying to keep up with their traditions by practicing it, but also, they want to practice it in a “new” way. It’s not to say that they aren’t doing their “Hopi” duties but I’m saying that the Hopi people are still trying to keep up with tradition and so they continued to practice it even in this pandemic year.

I was prowling around the village and hearing conversations around the village where some people are not happy that others are practicing their Hopi religion in a pandemic. And others are saying we need to keep practicing our Hopi religion even in this pandemic. It’s like that scenario again where, one person doesn’t like pepperoni on their pizza and the others want to have a supreme. We can’t please everyone we just have to compromise on the fact that this is a new normal and we need to “work” with it and not work against it.

I can honestly say that I forgot how things were in the past. I faintly remember how much good times we had just 2 years ago. Now that’s not a bad thing to forget, maybe for some people, this sickness was blessing in disguise, I don’t know. Or maybe this sickness is making us better people, again I wouldn’t know. But what I do know is that the way we have been acting in the past is nothing compared to how we are acting now. So, you see, sometimes in life we are reminded by “some things” we don’t understand, to make our lives better, and it takes harsh realities to finally learn our lesson, but sometimes we see chaos as just chaos. We will never truly understand how this all works, or how life works, that’s why we have religion to help us understand these questions we want answered. But then again, maybe some things are just better left unanswered.

You know, when I was a young kitten growing up, I had this movie called “Aladdin” and the Genie in a bottle gave Aladdin three wishes, and he wished for great things, not for power, but for happiness. So, I wanted to have three wishes of my own, I wished for a race car, I wished for a big house, and I couldn’t think of a third wish. But now that I think about it, I wish that everyone will be happy again. But in this stark reality…we can try to be happy, even if you don’t get our three wishes.

So, my advice to you is to go buy the movie “Aladdin” because it’s a cool movie, and pretended you’re with Genie or you can make your own wishes come true by creating your own happiness. Or you can buy a lamp and rub it ‘til a genie pops out…like that will ever happen.

I know this sickness is like a leech slowly sucking our happiness away, but we will learn to compromise and eventually the leech will get tired and die, and we can get our happiness back. It’s not going to be the same, it might be better, it might not be, but who knows, we just have to wait and see what happens. I can’t speak for everyone, come to think about it, I can’t speak at all, I’m a cat so maybe that’s my happiness?

Is it too late for wishing?
ARTICLES:
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.

PRESS RELEASES:
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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letters should not exceed 250 words and must include the name of the author and complete contact information (address, phone number or email address) 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:
Submissions must be exclusive to Hopi Tutuveni and should not exceed 1,000 words. Include with your submission your name and complete contact information, along with a short 2-3-sentence bio.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:
All press releases, articles, letters to the editor and Opinion Editorials electronically as a Word document or as plain text in the body of an email to the Managing Editor, Romalita Laban RLaban@hopi.nsn.us

CIRCULATION:
The Hopi Tutuveni is published twice a month, with a circulation of 2,500 copies throughout the entire Hopi Reservation. The paper is delivered on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month to the following locations: Moenkopi Travel Center, Moenkopi Legacy Inn, Hotevilla Store, Kykotsmovi Village Store, Tribal Government Complex, Hopi Cultural Center, Hopi Health Care Center, Polacca Circle M, Keams Canyon Store.
Hopi Tutuveni April 7, 2021

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**LEGALs**

IN THE HOPI CHILDREN’S COURT, HOPI JURISDICTION
KEAMS CANYON, ARIZONA

1. In the matter of:
   2. Case No. 2020-CC-0023
   MANSFIELD, D.
3. DÖB: 04/09/2010
   Minor Child,
4. AND CONCERNING:
   5. Parent,
   Sharon Mansfield,
   7. THE HOPI TRIBE TO SHARON MANSFIELD, PARENT OF D. MANSFIELD, MINOR CHILD NAMED ABOVE:

   NOTICE OF FILING OF MINOR-IN-NEED-OF-CARE PETITION AND NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

   PETITIONER, the HOPI TRIBE has filed, pursuant to Hopi Children’s Code, Chapter 61, Section 1(a), a Minor-in-Need-Of-Care Petition to adjudicate the above-named child a minor in need of care.

   NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that said Minor-in-Need-Of-Care Petition is set for adjudicatory hearing as to Parent, Sharon Mansfield, on the 13th day of May 2021, at 02:00 p.m. (MST) in the Hopi Children’s Court, Main Courtroom, Keams Canyon, Arizona 86034, for the purpose of determining whether said parent contests the allegations contained in the Minor-in-Need-of-Care Petition.

   A COPY of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a request in writing to: Office of the Hopi Prosecutor, PO Box 306, Keams Canyon, Arizona 86034; telephone number (928) 738-2245 or 738-2263; fax number (928) 738-3223.

   FAILURE TO APPEAR at the adjudicatory hearing or to otherwise notify the Court, in writing of good cause for inability to appear prior to the date of the hearing will result in a default judgment being entered against the parent. This means that the parent’s rights to legal and physical custody of the child(ren) may be vested with the Hopi Tribe Social Services Department.

   RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 29th day of March 2021.

   HOPI CHILDREN’S COURT

   [Signature]

   Deputy Court Clerk
   Post Office Box 156
   Keams Canyon, Arizona 86034
   Telephone: (928) 738-5171

---

Hopi Tribal Council
Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma, Chairman
Clark W. Tenakhongva, Vice Chairman
Dwayne Secakuku, Interim Tribal Secretary
Wilfred Gaseoma, Tribal Treasurer
Violet Sinquah, Sergeant-At-Arms

Village of Upper Moenkopi
Robert Charley
Philton Talahytewa, Sr.
Hubert Lewis, Sr.
Michael Elmoer

Village of Bakabi
Dwayne Secakuku
Clifford Qutsaquaqu
Velma Kalyesvah

Village of Kyakotsmovi
David Talayumptewa
Phillip Quochytewa, Sr.
Danny Honanie
Herman G. Honanie

Village of Sipaulavi
Rosa Honanie
Alverna Poneoma
Vacant

Village of Mishongnovi
Delores Coochyamptewa
Pansy Edmo
Mervin Yoyetewa

First Mesa Consolidated Villages
Albert T. Sinquah
Dale Sinquah
Wallace Youvella, Sr.
Wallace Youvella, Jr.
Hopi Law Enforcement Services
March 2021 Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Hopi Law Enforcement Services

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – April 6, 2021, HLES provides this report as a service to the citizens of the Hopi Reservation. HLES reserves the right to restrict the release of certain reports, which may not be available or are currently under investigation. During the month of March 2021, Hopi Law Enforcement Services received a total of 656 calls for service.

Accidents = 8
Information = 32
Agency Assist = 13
Kidnapping = 1
Alarm = 3
Medical Calls = 11
Alcohol Offenses = 74
Property Damage/Vandalism = 10
Animal/Livestock Calls = 92
Road Check = 6
Assault = 10
Sex Offenses = 2
Attempt to Locate/Missing Persons = 8
Suspicious Person/Circumstances = 12
Breaking & Entering = 3
Theft/Fraud = 4
Child Abuse = 3
Traffic Offenses = 49
Civil Disputes/Citizens Assist = 2
Threatening = 10
Curfew Violation = 4
Trespassing = 7
Disorderly Conduct = 22
Wanted Person = 2
Fight/DV = 13
Weapons Offense = 4
Fire/Controlled Burns = 11
Welfare/Property/Sec. Checks = 213
Harassment = 5
DRUG ARRESTS: 5
DRUGS SEIZED: 26.235 total grams
Marijuana
306 total ounces Alcohol

TOTAL ARRESTS FOR JANUARY:
35 (24 booked and 11 cited and released/charges filed)

DISCLAIMER: An arrest is not an indication of guilt; all parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Initial charges can be reduced or dropped at the discretion of the Hopi Tribal Prosecutor.

The Hopi Law Enforcement Services can be reached at 928-734-7340 for emergency and calls for service. For HLES Administration, Records requests or non-emergencies call 928-734-7344.

PUBLIC NOTICE
2021 Hart/Drye Ranch Wood Harvest Revised Schedule

WEMP and Department of Natural Resources

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – April 6, 2021 As we continue to provide essential services for our Hopi Tribal members, the Hopi Wildlife & Ecosystems Management Program (WEMP) will continue the opportunities to access the Hart/Drye Ranch, to harvest dead and down, and dead standing wood to heat their homes and stock pile for the next winter, during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Due to the low Hopi Tribal participation numbers and the increase in temperatures and potential dry conditions for wildland fire, the Hopi WEMP has implemented the following changes to the schedule. This will be the last Hart Ranch Wood Harvest for the season and we will schedule the Fall/Winter Hart Ranch Wood Harvest.

WEMP staff will be onsite to monitor and check-in vehicles and issue permits upon completion of wood harvest. WEMP staff will follow CDC guidelines and follow social distancing guidelines, and keep immediate interaction at a minimum. Please read the attached protocols to ensure we have safe compliance during the event.

The designated Hart Ranch Wood Harvest area will be approximately 4.9 miles south of the Twin Arrows Exit #219, down Forest Service (FS) Road #125. There will be signs placed to point you in the right direction.

If you are coming from Flagstaff, Arizona please exit I-40 at Exit #219 and make a right and proceed 4.9 miles south on FS Road #125. If you are coming from Winslow, Arizona, please exit I-40 at Exit #219 and make a left and go over the bridge and proceed 4.9 miles south on FS Road #125. Check-In with staff and proceed to designated harvest site location.

We remind those participating to practice COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS at all times while during the 2021 Hart/Drye Ranch Wood Harvest.

Any questions, please feel free to call WEMP staff at (928) 497-1010 or (928) 497-1017

2021 Hart/Drye Wood Harvest Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Hours of Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 9th to April 12th</td>
<td>8 am to 5 pm (Last vehicle check-in at 2 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17th to April 18th</td>
<td>8 am to 5 pm (Last vehicle check-in at 2 pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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DENVER — Colorado lawmakers are considering a proposal that would ban Native American mascots in public schools and colleges amid a nationwide push for racial justice that gained new momentum last year following George Floyd's death in Minneapolis and the NFL team in Washington changing its name.

The measure, which cleared the state Senate Education Committee on Thursday, would include a $25,000 monthly fine on public schools, colleges and universities that use American Indian-themed mascots after June 1, 2022.

The committee passed amendments exempting schools that have or will seek agreements with local tribes to use such mascots. The changes also would exempt schools on tribal lands.

Colorado is one of seven states considering legislation that would prohibit the use of Native American mascots, according the National Conference of State Legislatures. In 2019, Maine became the first state to ban them.

Nearly two dozen schools in Colorado still use Native American mascots such as the "Warriors," "Reds" and "Savages," according to Democratic state Sen. Jessie Danielson, one of the bill's sponsors. Two prominent high schools dropped their "Indians" mascot in the last year: Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs and Loveland High School in a city in northern Colorado.

A commission of tribal members and state agencies in 2015 recommended schools remove Native American mascots, but many still remain.

"They've been protested. They've been begged. They've even been urged by the state of Colorado to do the right thing, and instead of taking it on their own to do the right thing, they've decided to continue using derogatory mascots," Danielson said of the state's need to intervene.

Before the Senate committee, tribal members testified that the bill was important because of the nation's history of erasing Native American culture by prohibiting traditional practices and setting up boarding schools to assimilate youth.

"My people have worked hard to overcome these policies aimed to exterminate our existence and any record of our history and culture," Southern Ute Tribal Chairman Melvin J. Baker said.

Along with those policies, Baker said the "inaccurate and cruel portrayals" of Native Americans as mascots have been used as "strategic tools to marginalize Indigenous communities."

Sylvester Roubideaux, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, opposed the bill. He testified that the "Indians" mascot at a high school in Yuma, Colorado, where his family lives, has allowed for celebration of Native American culture in his community.

Roubideaux said taking away the mascots would mean less Native American representation and that they would become a "vanishing people."

The legislation says the mascots create "an unsafe learning environment" for Indigenous students by "promoting bullying" and teach other students that "it is acceptable to participate in culturally abusive and prejudicial behaviors."

At the committee hearing, Talon Long, an 18-year-old from a Native American family, recalled his classmates calling him "Chief Talon" and asking if he lived in a cave in the mountains.

"I'm not anyone's mascot, and I'm not an animal, a savage or anyone's good luck charm," Brody SeeWalker, a seventh-grader and Lakota descendant from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, testified. "I am a human and a proud Lakota who comes from a long line of ancestors that fought so very hard so that I could be standing here before you today."

The push to remove mascots with Native American imagery began during the civil rights movement in the 1960s, according to the National Congress of American Indians, a nonprofit established in 1944 to protect Native American and Alaska Native rights.

The movement gained little attention until 2005, when the National Collegiate Athletic Association directed schools to end the use of "hostile or abusive" mascots and imagery in college-level sports. In later years, the conversation spread to the multibillion-dollar industry of the NFL.

After years of pressure and a federal ruling, the NFL team in Washington decided to drop the nickname last July and become the "Washington Football Team."

More than 1,900 schools across the U.S. had American Indian-themed mascots as of last week, according to a database kept by the National Congress of American Indians.

In 2020, there were 68 schools in Utah, Ohio, Michigan, Idaho, New York, Massachusetts and California that scrapped American Indian-themed mascots, the database shows.

Proposed name changes often draw pushback because getting rid of a mascot means new uniforms, signs on fields and imagery on merchandise.

Measures in Washington state and Illinois would allow their use if a nearby tribe approves a request from the school, something Oregon has already passed. Illinois' bill also adds exemptions for schools that conduct yearly schoolwide programs on Native American culture and offer courses on "Native American contributions to society."

California prohibits public schools from using the former Washington NFL team as a nickname or mascot.

Nieberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.
Justice Department working with tribes on missing persons

Michael Balsamo and Iris Samuels
Associated Press/Report for America

HELENA, Mont. — Jermain Charlo vanished in June 2018. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal member hasn’t been seen since.

Valenda Morigeau, Charlo’s aunt, reported her missing to the Missoula Police Department in the days after her disappearance. But Morigeau said the detective initially assigned to the case failed to take the report seriously and was slow to act, a pattern she said is common when Native Americans report missing loved ones.

"You would think that there would be more urgency to go find the person that is missing," Morigeau said. "Here we are, three years later, because they assumed she was avoiding responsibilities."

Charlo's case brought the problem of missing and murdered Indigenous women to the fore in the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. Now, almost three years after her disappearance, the tribes on Thursday became the first in the nation to complete a community response plan — a Justice Department initiative aimed at creating collaboration between law enforcement agencies, including tribal police, county police and federal authorities, when Native Americans go missing on tribal land.

Still, there are major holes. Among the most glaring: There is no plan for when a tribal citizen goes missing off a reservation or outside tribal lands, as Charlo did.

In 2018, an Associated Press investigation found that 633 Indigenous women made up 0.7 percent of open missing persons cases despite being 0.4 percent of the U.S. population.

The situation is especially alarming in states such as Montana, which have large Native American populations. Native Americans make up less than 7 percent of Montana's population but account for 25 percent of reported missing person cases.

It is not a federal crime for an adult to go missing, and the FBI generally would only step in if there was clear evidence that a crime has been committed that led to a disappearance. The federal government could lend its resources to local law enforcement officials to help in the search.

"The things that we will learn and implement from the work that the good people here have done can be utilized nationwide," said Terry Wade, an FBI executive assistant director, at a news conference Thursday on the Flathead reservation.

The Justice Department sees its work with local law enforcement and tribal communities as a major initiative. President Donald Trump initiated a federal task force and his then-Attorney General William Barr, who visited the Flathead Reservation in Montana, committed to hiring 11 coordinators at U.S. attorneys offices across the country.

The new plan aims to increase communication among local law enforcement officials, especially in places where there is overlapping jurisdiction. For example, in the immediate area around the Flathead Reservation, there are eight police and sheriff's departments in addition to the Montana Highway Patrol, the tribal police and federal investigators.

As part of the initiative, the police departments are now sharing dispatch information, meaning that when one sheriff's office receives a missing persons report, it can be shared quickly and widely. Also, the U.S. attorney's office and the FBI would offer resources and make a sheriff's office aware of how the federal government could help.

Craig Couture, police chief for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said the plan will eventually extend to address cases that occur beyond tribal land and even in other states.

Over the past two years, the federal government has tried to put in place the tribal plans, holding listening sessions and working with tribes to "establish model protocols," said Ernie Weyand, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person coordinator for the Justice Department in Montana.

Weyand, a former FBI official and the first coordinator to be hired, has helped to develop the protocols with other coordinators and tribes across the country.

"They are a community deeply affected by its members who have gone missing or been murdered," Weyand said in an interview.

Officials around the Flathead Reservation are also working to create a common missing person protocol, shared by all the agencies working on the reservation, and have discussed storing information on a secure information server, he said.

It seems to be working.

In early 2020, when 16-year-old Selena Not Afraid disappeared from a New Year's party in Big Horn County, Montana, the reaction was swift and the response from law enforcement was robust. The FBI dispatched its elite child abduction team and offered its vast resources to the local sheriff’s office.

It was too late. But unlike so many others who have never been found, her body was discovered 20 days after she went missing. An autopsy found she died of hypothermia. Her family still questions how she died.

Rae Peppers, a former Montana state House member who has worked to address the crisis through legislation and nonprofit work, said several of the federal initiatives have come across as disingenuous and unproductive.

"It looks like we're at a standstill," she said, calling Trump's efforts "a political move and not a compassionate move for the Native people."

But President Joe Biden's administration has brought the prospect of revitalized efforts. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced Thursday the formation of a new unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs to address the missing and murdered Indigenous persons crisis, with a goal of coordinating different federal resources to investigate cases.

The move on the part of Haaland marks the fulfillment of a hope by Native activists, including Peppers, that the first American Indian to lead the Department of Interior would bring greater attention to the crisis.

"Violence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades. Far too often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated," Haaland said in a statement.

In tribal communities in Montana, hardly anyone can remain untouched by the crisis. Peppers recounts that no charges were pressed in the killing of her neighbor, who was her husband’s cousin.

Peppers said the Tribal Community Response Plan could prove effective, but it remains to be seen whether such an initiative can translate to all tribal communities and whether it brings real change.

Native Americans who have seen their neighbors and loved ones disappear agree that while the political attention may be new, the problem is not.

"It's a crisis that has happened clear back to Columbus’ time," Peppers said. "It's always been, 'Oh, another dead Indian.' That was always the discussion, and it's still like that."