COVID-19 Cases on Hopi Reservation Show Spike in Spread
Leaders push for prevention measures, full vaccination among tribal residents

MONTHLY TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES
As of June 7, 2022
(Timeline for Variant Emergence in U.S. - Delta: March 2021, Omicron: Dec 2021)

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COVID-19 Cases on Hopi Reservation Show Spike in Spread
Leaders push for prevention measures, full vaccination among tribal residents

WILMA MANKILLER quarters released to eager public

COLUMNS
LARRY’S CORNER
This Land is your land...
Read more about it

COMMUNITY
Hopi Caner Support services receives funding to continue
COVID-19 Cases on Hopi Reservation Show Spike in Spread

Leaders push for prevention measures, full vaccination among tribal residents

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Submitted by: Armando Saldivar - Communications Specialist, Hopi Department of Health and Human Services

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – June 6, 2022, during the week of May 28 to June 3, 2022, the Hopi Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recorded 102 active cases of COVID-19 within the Hopi Reservation. This spike in cases comes after months of a significant decrease in the number of cases that have been reported in the area.

“We are constantly monitoring the movement of the virus within our Tribe and when we see the numbers trending upwards, we know that something is wrong and that something has to change,” said Timothy Nuvangyaoma, Hopi Chairman. “We need to keep up with our prevention methods and continue testing so that we can isolate from others if we get sick.”

These prevention methods include the continued use of masks, social distancing (six feet from others), and washing hands with soap and warm water often. “One of the most important messages we are working to get out is that one or two vaccinations is not enough,” said Royce Jenkins, Public Health Authority, DHHS Director.

COVID-19 vaccine boosters can further enhance or restore protection that might have decreased over time after your primary series vaccination. Children five to 11 years of age should wait five months after their initial series of COVID vaccines before getting their booster. More information on vaccination and boosters is available via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: https://bit.ly/3mrK4Z5.

Hopi Cancer Support Services Receives Funding to Continue Work

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approves five-year grant

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Submitted by: Armando Saldivar - Communications Specialist, Hopi Department of Health and Human Services

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – June 7, 2022 this week the HOPI Cancer Support Services was notified that their application for funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was granted. Agencies from across the country submitted their requests in January of this year. The funding will provide $3 Million over the span of five years beginning in July.

“We have served the Hopi community for over 25 years and now we have the opportunity to continue for 5 more years. This is a momentous occasion for our program and for the entire tribe,” said Kellen Polingyumptewa, Hopi Women’s Health Program Coordinator. “During the last few years, we have seen decreased health care providers, unexpected COVID spikes resulting in safety mitigation strategies that hinder work productivity, and network and broadband issues with employees forced to work from home. However, we look forward to continuing and improving our services with the same energy and momentum as before the COVID Pandemic.”

The monies from the CDC’s National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program will be used to provide women with low income who are uninsured and underinsured access to screening/diagnostic services for breast and cervical cancer. It will allow the Hopi Women’s Health Program to provide patient navigation/case management, transportation to/from appointments, and appointment scheduling/reminders. Additionally, it will cover screening costs for enrolled members at two partnering health systems, Hopi Health Care Center and Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation.

The program will also provide one-on-one health education, mobile on-site mammography units to serve the local Hopi community and navigation to cancer treatment centers for enrolled program members.

To learn more about the Hopi Cancer Support Services Program visit: https://rb.gy/rmswlk
Hopi Tribal Council Third Quarter Session  
June 1, 2022 AGENDA – Amendment #1

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
2. Discussion of a motion to vacate judgment in the Flagstaff v. Hopi Tribe case – Fred Lomayesva, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel – TABLED
3. Discussion and action - Letter dated April 15, 2022 Re: Hopi Tribal Goals and Objectives - Dale Sinquah, Tribal Council Representative, First Mesa Consolidated Villages – TABLED
4. Discussion and possible action – Letter dated April 15, 2022 Re: To address the matter of Building Communities, Inc. – Dale Sinquah, Tribal Council Representative, First Mesa Consolidated Villages - TABLED
5. Action Item #052-2022 – To approve the placement of equipment on the Second Mesa Water tank, the Hopi Tribal Governance building and the Hopi Veteran’s Memorial Center for the purposes of FirstNet System deployment on Hopi Lands – Author/Amy Mignella, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel – TABLED
6. Action Item #053-2022 – To obtain HTC consent for Hopi Telecommunications, Inc. (HTI) to make improvements on its Polacca & Second Mesa towers under leases H-18-78 and H-20-78 respectively, and to authorize HTI to enter into a colocation or other agreements with third parties as required to carry out the intent of this Resolution – Author/Carroll Onsae, President/General Manager, Hopi Telecommunications, Inc. – TABLED
NEW BUSINESS
1. Action Item #047-2022 – Acceptance of the Tribal Geographic Information System (GIS) Pilot Project Grant from the National Indian Health Board – Author/Royce M. Jenkins, Director, Hopi Department of Health & Human Services
2. Action Item #048-2022 – Amend Resolution H-044-2021, to accept ALL funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ACT) and funding for Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars as authorized by the Act – Author/Nada Talayumptewa, Treasurer, The Hopi Tribe
3. Action Item #049-2022 – To approve completed Enrollment applications for Hopi Membership – Author/Tanya L. Monroe, Director, Enrollment Office
4. Action Item #050-2022 – Requesting for approval from Tribal Council on an Intergovernmental Agreement with State of Arizona on the design, advertise, award, and administer construction of pedestrian path and lighting along State Route 264 – Author/Michael Lomayaktewa, Director, Hopi Department of Transportation - **Time Certain – June 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.
5. Action Item #051-2022 – To approve a loss revenue election from the ARPA funds as required by the U.S. Treasury Final Rule – Author/Jim Davis, Director, Office of Financial Management
6. Action Item #54-2022 – Contractual agreement with AHCCCS and the Hopi CHR program to accept CDC-CCR funding in the amount of $200,158 for three years – Author/Joey Hamilton, Manager, Community Health Representative Program
7. Action Item #055-2022 - To Request for Funds to assist the Hopi Assisted Living Facility towards their grant - Author/Linda Honahnie, President, Hopi Assisted Living Facility Board of Directors
8. Action Item #056-2022 – To approve Inter-Governmental Agreement regarding the Bears Ears National Monument between the Hopi Tribe, Bears Ears Coalition, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service, Author/Craig Andrews, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe
9. Presentation on Information Technology Policy and use of equipment– Robert Collateta, Jr., Network Manager, Office of Information Technology
10. Presentation of Enrollment Ordinance No. 33 by Tanya Monroe, Director, Hopi Office of Enrollment – Rosa Honani, Tribal Council Representative, Village of Sipaulovi
11. Discussion and possible action – Memo dated April 15, 2022 Re: Directive Regarding Executive Director’s Budget– Craig Andrews, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe
12. Discussion and possible action – Memo dated March 31, 2022 Re: Village of Shungopavi’s request for information regarding land lease, including ownership of the property comprising the Hopi Cultural Center – Craig Andrews, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe
13. Discussion on Next Actionable Steps Regarding See Renewal and Blue Stone Strategy – Hopi Tribal Council
14. Discussion – Continued Government-to-Government Consultation initiated in December 2019 regarding the proposal to close the Tuba City Dump Site (TCD) – Jessie Durham, Acting Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Office - **Time Certain – June 22, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
15. Discussion – Letter dated April 12, 2022 from Michele L. Honanie, Chairwoman, Kykotsmovi Board of Directors; Re; AI #077-2021 / H-071-2021
17. Discussion (continuing) on the FY 2023 General Fund budget development – Eugene Talas, Chairperson, Budge Oversight Team - **Time Certain – June 21, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
Hopi Day School Holds 6th Grade Promotion with Hopi Cultural Elements Included

By: Romalita Laban, Hopi Tutuveni

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – May 25, 2022 and on the campus of the historical Hopi Day School (HDS) campus, the HDS staff, fellow Hawks, parents, friends and family were present to witness the honoring of the 6th Grade Class with a very nice Promotion Ceremony, complete with Hopi cultural elements and inclusion.

Hopi Tutuveni would be remiss if continuation of coverage of the local Hopi community school promotions did not occur. The most recent 2021-2022 school year has been faced with many challenges posed for all local Hopi community schools, including how ceremonies, such as the Promotion Ceremony could be completed.

Hopi Day School has always been observed as a local Hopi school that incorporates Hopi language in its curriculum and day-to-day school activities, however, one could not be pleasantly surprised to hear the 6th Grade promoting class begin the ceremony by singing a song in Hopi for those in attendance. The audience was quiet and the promoting class of students had their full attention with some nodding their heads in rhythm to the melody and message being sung.

With creativity and resourcefulness the school staff did a wonderful job of decorating in full HDS maroon and gold with added touches of Hopi symbolism and flare.

The HDS technology staff also did wonders with a beautifully designed PowerPoint presentation complete with testimonials and goals listed by the HDS promoting class.

Hopi Tutuveni wishes the 2022 Promoting Hopi Day School Class of Hawks a smooth and happy transition into junior high school and future endeavors, as well. We continue to send positives to the HDS Administration and Staff, go HDS Hawks!

Hopi Tribal Council Re-instates Village of Mishongnovi Representatives Coochyumptewa and Edmo, Effective June 8, 2022

By: Romalita Laban, Hopi Tutuveni

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – June 8, 2022 Hopi Tribal Council took action on an issue sitting on the Hopi Tribal Council 2nd Quarter Session March 1, 2022 Month of April 2022 AGENDA listed under Unfinished Business as item “5. Discussion and Possible Action – Letter dated February 10, 2022 from Archie Duwahoyeoma, Re: – Albert T. Sinqua, Tribal Council Representative, First Mesa Consolidated Villages – **Time Certain – April 7, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.”

The letter from Duwahoyeoma was presented by Duwahoyeoma, Bear Clan Elder/Village Leader of Musangnuvi Village and discussed with Hopi Tribal Council on April 7, 2022 in accordance with the Time Certain set on Council’s Agenda.

Also present on that date was Delores Coochyumptewa. Although the presentation was completed and discussed it was not acted upon on that date due to information provided to Council that the village was to be holding an election in May 2022.

According to Phillip Quochytewa, Sr. Village of Kykotsmovi Representative sitting on Hopi Tribal Council, the motion he made, for which he provided a hand written copy for Hopi Tutuveni read, “I move that the Hopi Tribal Council honor Mr. Archie Duwahoyeoma’s Certification, and reinstate Ms. Delores Coochyumptewa and Pansy Edmo effective immediately to continue with their duties and responsibilities as Council Representatives from the Village of [Mishongovi.] Furthermore, both Council Representatives shall be compensated their full salary including their council benefits [retro active] to the date of Nov. 30, 2021.”

Quochytewa also informed Hopi Tutuveni that since the Village did not hold an election in May 2022 he was compelled to follow up on the issue and further requested through the Hopi Tribal Secretary’s Office to have the matter placed back on the Council’s Agenda.

Included in this publication is the Hopi Tribal Council Third Quarter Session June 1, 2022 AGENDA – Amendment #1 and under UNFINISHED BUSINESS is item “18. Memo dated May 16, 2022 from Phillip Quochytewa, Sr., RE: Letter dated February 10, 2022 Certification Re: Delores Coochyumptewa and Pansy Edmo, Council Representatives, Village of Mishongnovi – Phillip Quochytewa, Sr., Tribal Council Representative, Village of Kykotsmovi - **Time Certain – June 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. (Add-on – June 6, 2022)”

After coming out of Executive Session, during which the Time Certain took place, Council voted on Quochytewa’s motion with a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

Hopi Tutuveni will be doing a follow up article on this matter in upcoming publications.
2022 Hopi Code Talkers Citizenship Awards
Hopi Veterans Services

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – June 8, 2022 and the sounds of excitement and proud parents in the audience patiently waiting for their young sons and daughters to march to the stage to begin the annual promotion ceremonies occurred around Hopi the past few weeks, is still fresh in mind. The Hopi Veterans Services staff was happy to announce the revival of sponsoring the 2022 Hopi Code Talkers Citizenship Award program this school season. Due to COVID, our last recipients from the 6th and 8th grade classes on the Hopi Reservation were acknowledged in 2019. However, the opportunity for in-person promotion ceremonies across the Hopi Reservation allowed our program to issue the Citizenship Award for a deserving girl and boy in each school’s 6th and 8th promotion class.

Hopi Veterans Services sponsors this award in honor of the ten Hopi Code Talkers who used their Hopi Lavayii during World War II in the Pacific campaigns. Moreover, to help promote and encourage Hopi language speaking among our youth; to preserve our rich culture and as a lasting tribute of the Hopi Code Talkers legacy. The local teachers of each school made the challenging selection for the awards. The criteria was based on the student’s positive and respectful attitude with students and teachers; active participation in class, school and team sports; assisted fellow students and had excellent communication skills during the school year. This year’s award consisted of a certificate, a Hopi Flag and a redesigned Hopi Code Talker 1.5 inch lapel pin with the words “Citizenship Award.” Additionally, the Hopi Junior Senior High School students received a plaque.

Our sincere appreciation to each school for participating this year to recognize the achievements of their students. We congratulate each of the award recipients and their proud parents and/or guardians for supporting them throughout the school year. We hope to continue this tradition next school year. Students enjoy your summer and get ready to excel in junior high and high school - nahongvita!

2022 Hopi Code Talkers Citizenship Award Recipients

Moenkopi Day School
Mason Honie (b)
Abbie Tallsalt (g)

Hopi Day School
Londyn Lomayestewa (b)
Kylie Jose (g)

Second Mesa Day School
Sekawunu Sooharyyah (b)
Kailey Honyaktewa (g)

First Mesa Elementary
Devionn Mahle (b)
Kamaya Chapella (g)

Keams Canyon Elementary
Christopher Penn (b)
Brianne Naha (g)

Hopi Junior High School – 8th
Kaylyn Nevayaktewa (b)
Naomi Saufkie (g)

Hotevilla-Bacavi Comm. School – 8th
Brandon Charlie (b)
Kaidence Nevayaktewa (g)

Legals

In the Hopi Trial Court
Keams Canyon, Arizona

In the Matter of the Change of Name Of:

Susie Polelonema Bilagody

To

Susie Polelonema Bilagody

Notice is hereby given that Susie Polelonema Bilagody has petitioned the court for the change of name, from:

Susie Polelonema Bilagody to Susie Polelonema

Any party seeking to intervene in said proceeding must file an appropriate pleading with the Hopi Trial Court no later than twenty (20) days after the publication of this notice.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2022.

Margene Namoki
Clerk of the Court

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Xoyote Soldier Tour Carries the Message of the Plight of Indigenous Peoples and Lands of the Colorado Plateau Region to New Audiences

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Submitted by: Ed Kabotie

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – June 7, 2022
The Xoyote Soldier Tour will kick off in Flagstaff on Wednesday, June 8th at the Flagstaff Community Market before traveling through the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Indiana, Oklahoma, and California. Targeting reservations, museums, and educational institutions, the tour features Dine/Dakota flautist Hunter Eagleman RedDay, Tewa/Hopi singer/songwriter Ed Kabotie, Northern Arizona reggae/rock band, Tha ‘Yoties, and Dine/Apache Singer/Songwriter, Sage Bond from Red Lake, Arizona.

The purpose of the Xoyote Soldier Tour is to raise a heartfelt cry for the Indigenous people and lands of the Colorado Plateau region, while comparing social and environmental struggles that Indigenous people face in other parts of the country. Though the Colorado Plateau houses the most number of national parks per square mile of any part of the country, it is also one of the most exploited lands for uranium, water, oil, and coal. The tribes of the region continue to shoulder the consequences of reckless mining practices.

Tour manager, Ed Kabotie explains, “The future of this nation will be determined by our ability to mourn our history of systemic oppression, and our willingness to work for a future in the true spirit of liberty and justice for all.”


For more information, you can reach out to the band via social media or contact Ed Kabotie by phone at: 505.274.6822 or email Ed Kabotie at: edkabotie@gmail.com
Annual Sumi’nungwa Hopi Festival in Polacca returns after two year hiatus

By Katherine Locke
Navajo-Hopi Observer
Originally Published: June 7, 2022 8:48 a.m.
Tweet

POLACCA, Ariz. — After a two-year hiatus, the annual Sumi’nungwa Hopi Festival will return to Polacca, Arizona on the Hopi Reservation Oct. 1-2, with many arts and craft vendors from the reservation and other tribes around the Southwest including New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

Food vendors will also be available, bringing Southwest foods to the event and some red hot chili beef stew from Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico.

Theron Honyumptewa, chairperson for the Sumi’nungwa Hopi Festival, said the festival usually attracts about 1,500-3,000 people though they anticipate an increase this year because people are anxious to get outdoors and be among friends, family and relatives. He said the event is open to everyone.

“This is definitely a popular event on Hopi for the benefit of all people,” he said. “Our goal is to bring people together as one, thus the name ‘Sumi’nungwa.’ The festival is for everyone across the land. As people we are connected in one way or another.”

Honyumptewa said the pandemic put the festival on a standstill for two years, which affected everyone around the world, including Hopi and other Indigenous nations.

“If it’s any indication, the response that we’ve received from vendors thus far has been great. That tells us that they are ready to make a return to the festival in 2022,” Honyumptewa said.

This year, sponsors are giving vendors an opportunity to register for the festival at an early bird rate for two months. After July 31, the rate will increase.

“It is highly encouraged to take advantage of the early bird offer. More information is available regarding the vending fees by calling the number(s) listed below,” Honyumptewa said.

Aside from the crafts and food, traditional Hopi and other tribal social dances will headline the event each day. All dance groups, regardless of tribal affiliation are welcome, Honyumptewa said.

The 10K and 5K races will once again take place and are scheduled for Oct. 2. Race time is 4 p.m. (MST). The races are open to both male and female runners, regardless of age. Awards include, top 30 overall finishers in the 10K and 5K respectively.

Registration will be at the festival site only, starting Sept. 30, and ending approximately one hour before race time, Oct. 2. More race information is available by calling the number(s) listed below.

Honyumptewa said DHD events, which is the sponsor, expects a large turnout of vendors, community members and visitors. Overnight camping is not permitted at the festival site. Security will be on hand for everyone’s safety.

“People should know that the festival is an outdoor event that consists of over one hundred craft and food vendors combined, so there is a huge variety of options to choose from in supporting our vendors,” he said.

There will be sanitizing stations throughout the festival site, with hand sanitizer and face masks. The event is drug and alcohol free. A Hopi Tribal Peddlers Permit is required. A Food Handlers Card is required as well for all food vendors.

Honyumptewa said DHD productions is also seeking volunteers to assist with the festival.

“We encourage people to attend this year’s festival. Whether it’s your first time visit to Hopi, or your third festival you will be a part of something special and positive for our local economy,” he said. “Come and experience that Hopi hospitality that will last a lifetime.”

More information is available at (928) 737-0174 or (928) 286-7801.
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WEBSITE: kceseagles.org  
“HOME OF THE EAGLES”

### ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

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**Hopi Small Business**  
**Training Week**  
**June 27-June 30, 2022**

**Training Schedule:**
- **Monday, June 27**  
  Website Development & Social Media  
- **Tuesday, June 28**  
  Tax Forms & Basic Self Employment Expense Tracking  
- **Wednesday, June 29**  
  Retirement & Investment Planning for the Entrepreneur  
- **Thursday, June 30**  
  Taking the Leap - A Panel of Small Business Owners who Took the Leap!

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---

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- Receive a t-shirt and incentive bag.
- Become part of a network of small business owners that receive information and training opportunities to sustain and grow your business.
- Participate in the Annual Small Business Directory Fair to showcase your products or advertise your service.

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FOR HOPI, BY HOPI

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Wilma Mankiller quarters released to eager public

Chad Hunter
Cherokee Phoenix

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – A standing-room-only crowd gathered in Tahlequah to celebrate the life and legacy of the Cherokee Nation’s first female principal chief, Wilma P. Mankiller, who is now immortalized on a U.S. quarter released June 6.

“She’s a legend,” Cherokee Nation citizen Henry Carey Jr., 66, of Tahlequah, said. “She deserves it. Wilma Mankiller, she was a freedom fighter, fighting way before she was chief. I really respect her. So I wanted to get some of these quarters.”

Current and past tribal leaders, Mankiller’s family, friends and hundreds of others turned out for the release of a limited number of the coins, which feature the late chief wrapped in a traditional shawl with “a resolute gaze to the future” on the reverse side.

“Wilma Mankiller demonstrated grit and determination,” current Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said. “She fought for justice for Native Americans. She inspired us all to do more to help ourselves as a people. She made this world a better, fairer and more just place. She did all of this, by the way, before she ever held public office.”

Mankiller, who served as principal chief from 1985-95, is noted as having fought for civil rights and equality, along with self-sufficiency for the Cherokee people. In addition, she is described as “the anchor” in establishing what has now become the largest tribal health care system in the country.

“The first woman to be elected chief of a major American Indian tribe, she revitalized the Nation’s tribal government, and advocated relentlessly for improved education, healthcare and housing services,” a biography from the National Women’s History Museum states. “Under her leadership, infant mortality declined and educational achievement rose in the Cherokee Nation.”

The Mankiller coin is one of five in the U.S. Mint’s American Women Quarters series. Its design, one of three considered, includes inscriptions that read “Principal Chief” and, in the Cherokee Language, “Cherokee Nation.” According to the U.S. Mint, only two other Cherokee Nation citizens, Mary Golda Ross and Sequoyah, have coins in their names.

Mankiller, who died from pancreatic cancer in 2010 at the age of 64, remains an inspiration for many, including friend, author and feminist leader Gloria Steinem. Mankiller, Steinem noted, now has a “permanent place on a coin that will circulate among us every day and will give each of us a reason to tell her story.”

“Now we will be able to treasure the presence of Wilma’s image daily in our hands and in our hearts,” she said.

Following Mankiller’s passing, President Barack Obama said, “As the Cherokee Nation’s first female chief, she transformed the nation-to-nation relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the federal government, and served as an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, she was recognized for her vision and commitment to a brighter future for all Americans.”

The June 6 celebration included a poetry reading by U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo and musical performances by the Cherokee Adult Choir and Cherokee National Youth Choir with special guest Breanna Olaya-Morton, Mankiller’s granddaughter.
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KYKOTSMOVI, AZ – June 8, 2022
This data is updated on the Hopi Tribe’s website “COVID-19 Response and Resources” page.

HOPI H.E.O.C UPDATES

Hopi Health Care Center – Community COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination Information
COVID-19 vaccines are available in the afternoons on Mondays and Wednesdays for the month of March for those 5 years and older. To schedule an appointment call (928) 737-6148 or 737-6081. Appointments are required. For questions about COVID-19 vaccines please call (928) 737-6198 or 737-6197.

COVID-19 Testing Drive-up Testing schedule: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8:15–9:30 AM. Enter at the west entrance & drive around back. Mask must be worn by everyone in your vehicle. Please stay in your vehicle at all times. To schedule for testing or for more information please call (928) 737-6187 or 6233.

A COVID-19 Hotline has been created by the Hopi Health Care Center to assist with all COVID-19 related questions and service requests. The hotline is open Monday–Friday from 8 AM–5 PM. To contact the COVID-19 hotline please call (928) 737-6187.

TUBA CITY REGIONAL HEALTH CARE CORPORATION (TCRHCC) – COMMUNITY COVID-19 TESTING & VACCINATION INFORMATION:

All Moenkopi residents: Testing, and now vaccinations, at TCRHCC are being held at the outdoor tent Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Daylight Savings Time. Rapid and CEPHED tests can take approximately 3 hours. Send out tests can take 2-3 days. The address for Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation is 167 N. Main Street, Tuba City, AZ. For more information regarding Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation’s COVID-19 vaccination clinic and testing, please call 1-866-976-5941. TCRHCC now has at-home COVID-19 test kits available for the community. To request a test kit please go through the drive up tent from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Daylight Savings Time or go to the pharmacy drive up window after hours.

FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS:

You can now order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the U.S. government at covidtests.gov by calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489). Only 4 tests come in an order and only two orders per household. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Please do not wait to order your tests when you have been exposed or become symptomatic as the tests will not arrive in enough time for you to be tested. So please order them now so that you and your loved ones can be prepared. Households that did not place their first order of test kits, can now place their first AND second order. They must complete the ordering process above two (2) times to place both a first and second order (for a total of 8 test kits).

FREE N-95 MASKS

The CDC now has a resource on their website where you can see a list of local pharmacies that have free N-95 masks by using your zip code. Click here or call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION CALCULATOR:
The CDC now has a Quarantine and Isolation calculator that helps determine how long you need to isolate or quarantine.

(TABLE ON PG 5)

“CDC is recommending that moderately or severely immunocompromised 5–11-year-olds receive an additional primary dose of vaccine 28 days after their second shot.” Remember that the only vaccine that 5-17 year olds are eligible for is Pfizer.

SOURCE: Different COVID-19 Vaccines – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention SYMPTOMS, QUARANTINE, AND ISOLATION:

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 and can range from mild to severe. The following are COVID-19 symptoms that people may experience:
• Fever or chills
• Cough
• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
• Fatigue
• Muscle or body aches
• Headache
• New loss of taste or smell
• Sore throat
• Congestion or runny nose
• Nausea or vomiting
• Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.”

Currently, the local health department and HHCC are implementing the previously recommended CDC guidelines which is a 10 day isolation for those who test positive and a 14 day quarantine for those exposed to an infected individual.

(GLOSSARY ON PG 5)

Be aware that when someone tests positive they became contagious 2 days before they developed symptoms, or if they are not experiencing symptoms 2 days before they tested positive not the day they received their results. If someone was less than 6 feet away from a potential positive case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period they would be considered a close contact regardless of whether or not both parties were wearing masks. For example, Molly was within 6 feet of Craig on Thursday night for 10 minutes and on Friday morning for 5 minutes. Craig developed symptoms Saturday evening, was tested for COVID on Monday, and received their results on Wednesday. Because Molly was within 6 feet of Craig for a total of 15 minutes over a 24 hour period within the 2 day timeframe she is now considered to be a close contact. If you have been identified as a close contact you may or may not need to quarantine depending on your vaccination status.

If an unvaccinated individual that is not positive is having to take care of someone that is infected, they will need to quarantine for 14 days beginning on the infected person’s 10th day of isolation, with that day being Day 0 and the following day being Day 1. That means the caregiver could potentially be out of work for 24 days. If a vaccinated person that is not positive is having to take care of someone that is infected, they will not have to quarantine but will need to get tested 5 days from the 10th day of the infected person’s isolation. If a vaccinated person develops symptoms while caring for an infected person they will need to get tested as soon as possible and remain at home until they receive their results.

Re-testing of COVID-19 Positive Employees. Per guidance and alignment with HHCC, CDC, state and local health departments, and OSHA workplace guidance for COVID-19 re-testing of positive or suspected COVID-19 employees before they return to work, nor providing letters to go back to work is not recommended.

The recommended reason for not re-testing is an individual may continue to test positive on a viral test long after they are recovered from COVID-19. These dead viral particles will turn viral tests positive even though they cannot cause disease in others. The Hopi Health Care Center strongly encourages employers to use the CDC’s symptom and criteria below even if they continue to test positive. Once they meet the three criteria, they are no longer considered infectious to others. However, if the employee was severely ill (hospitalized) or in immunocompromised, please advise them to visit their primary care provider before returning to work.

The “checklist” below has been updated as of the most recent COVID-19 guidelines from the CDC and will be used by employers to determine when an employee with confirmed COVID-19 may return to work safely. For additional questions, please call the Hopi Health Care Center COVID-19 hotline (928) 737-6188.

□ It’s been at last ten days since I first had symptoms or received my positive diagnosis if I’ve not had symptoms (please note date of first symptoms: ________) E□ Overall my symptoms have improved and I am feeling better.
□ It’s been at least 72 hours since I last had a fever without using fever-reducing medicine.
If you checked all three boxes, you are no longer a considered at risk to infect others and can go back to work!
VACCINATION DATA AS OF JUNE 1, 2022:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VILLAGE</th>
<th>POPULATION ESTIMATE</th>
<th>NUMBER VACCINATED</th>
<th>PERCENT OF POPULATION VACCINATED</th>
<th>VACCINE RANKING (HIGHEST = 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bakabi</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotevilla</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyakotsmovi</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>121.7%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mishongovi</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>53.76%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moenkopi</td>
<td>1,191</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>72.39%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orabi</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>101.49%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shungopavi</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>64.88%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sipaulavi</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>65.50%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polacca</td>
<td>2,005</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>72.72%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,323**</td>
<td>5,053</td>
<td>70.02%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Population estimates and vaccine data may be subject to change due to ongoing updates and revisions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE ELIGIBILITY</th>
<th>PRIMARY SERIES</th>
<th>BOOSTER DOSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>5+ years old</td>
<td>2 doses given 21 days apart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>18+ years old</td>
<td>2 doses given 28 days apart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>18+ years old</td>
<td>1 dose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Everyone ages 18 years and older should get a booster dose of either Pfizer or Moderna (COVID-19 vaccines) at least 5 months after the last dose in their primary series.

Teens 16-17 years old may get a Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine booster at least 4 months after the last dose in their primary series.

Everyone ages 18 years and older should get a booster dose of either Pfizer or Moderna (COVID-19 vaccines) at least 6 months after the last dose in their primary series.

Everyone ages 18 years and older should get a booster dose of either Pfizer or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) at least 2 months after the first dose of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

GLOSSARY:

Close Contact: Someone who was less than 5 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread COVID starting 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic people, 2 days before the date the positive test was taken).

Contact Tracing: The process of identifying individuals that are considered close contacts to an infected person.

Isolation: The procedure that individuals follow when they have received positive results.

Isolation guidelines are if an individual test positive and is experiencing symptoms their 10 day isolation period will start the first day they developed symptoms. If an individual is not experiencing symptoms then their 10 day isolation starts the day they got tested, not the day they received their results. The day they were tested will be Day 0 and the following day will be Day 1. The first day an individual develops symptoms is considered Day 0. The following day will start Day 1.

Quarantine: The procedure that individuals follow when they have come in contact with someone who tested positive.

Unvaccinated individuals, regardless of whether they are experiencing symptoms or not, need to quarantine for 14 days from the last day they were in contact with the infected person. As a reminder, the day an individual was in contact with an infected person is Day 0 and the day after will start Day 1. If an individual not experiencing symptoms that received negative results begins to experience symptoms after they received their results, they will need to get tested again.

Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact UNLESS you are experiencing symptoms. Regardless of whether you and up having to quarantine vaccinated individuals need to get tested. For individuals that are experiencing symptoms and are vaccinated, they need to get tested as soon as possible and remain at home until they receive their results. For individuals that are NOT experiencing symptoms and are vaccinated, it is suggested that you wait 5 days from the last contact with the infected person to get tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VILLAGE</th>
<th>COVID-19 Positives Last 14-Days</th>
<th>COVID-19 Positives Cumulative Total</th>
<th>Most Recent Case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyakotsmovi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>June 1, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orabi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>February 28, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polacca (Walpi-Shitchumovi-Tewa)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>June 7, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mishongovi</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>June 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sipaulavi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>May 27, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shungopavi</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>June 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuweh-Loo-Pahki</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>January 13, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakabi</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>June 7, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotevilla</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>June 7, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearns Canyon</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>June 7, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moenkopi</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>June 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagstaff</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 23, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>May 25, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 20, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winslow</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>December 6, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuba City</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>June 7, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teesto</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>October 7, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 21, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeddito</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 28, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holbrook</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 27, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2814</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

AS OF JUNE 6, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Arizona</th>
<th>Navajo County</th>
<th>Coconino County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84,911,618</td>
<td>3,077,146</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>45,915</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>1,054,731</td>
<td>10,373</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination (Total Pop. w/At Least 1 Dose)</td>
<td>73,971</td>
<td>72,471</td>
<td>15,210</td>
<td>68,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination (Eligible Pop. w/At Least 1 Dose)</td>
<td>73,471</td>
<td>70,671</td>
<td>15,010</td>
<td>68,324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cross Word Puzzle
Find the English words for the Hopi words.

Across
3. Senpi
6. Iyohoo
7. Oki’wa
9. Mo’a
11. Pitu
12. Oyi
14. Yori
15. Kwapi
16. Taywa
17. Tuwanta
18. Hisat
19. Naqvü’

Down
1. Pi’ala
2. Suuyan
4. Pono
5. Kuku
8. Ho’ota
10. Hakiy
13. Yaqa
14. Hokya
17. Kuvosi
18. Haaki
20. Tsungu

Answers for May 18
Across
Down

Answers in next issue

Are you into drawing COMICS?

Drawing comics is a great way to show your drawing skills and your side of Hopi Humor. If you have the skill and the humor to draw comics for the Hopi Tutuveni, Name of artist will be displayed and not edited when submitted. Hopi Tutuveni has the right to publish submitted comics.

Submit your comics to consae@hopi.nsn.us
Or
Call 928-734-3283
To find out more

Hopi Tutuveni June 15, 2022

PUZZLES AND GAMES

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

Hopi Words

Tuw’i’ya - Able (skillful)
Pö’i’ya - Debt (Have)
Öqala - Determined
Sivaqöpqö - Heater
Yuki’at - Accomplishment
Alögö - Different
Hopiqatsi - Hopi Way of Life
Hintsakpi - Activity
Hótsiwa - Doorway
Hiihiko - Drink
Hopi - Medicine
Huwi’ya - Guide (Singular)
Que’ti - Back out of
Muytala - Moon Light
Nan’ip - Each (of two)
Nawini - Season (Winter)
Novaki - Bakery
Tumal’aya - Employee
Muytala - Moon Light
Kwsuva - Bring
Tunatya - Endeavor
Nuvati - Snowed
Pàato - Burst
Tumal’aya - Employee
Nawini - Suggestion
Pitanakts - Cap/Hat
Tuuqayta - Fluent
Tsangaw - Thank Goodness
Sikiki - Car (Auto)
Saavu - Fire wood
Kyaamuya - Winter
Kansulmongwi - Chair
Kwusiva - Medicine
Kwusiva - Medicine
Tanman Nomora - Choice
Qalaptu - Get Over (Recover)

Puzzles

TICK-TACK-TOE
A long time ago...well, back in the ’90s, I used to have this friend from my neighborhood. She was the most fantastic girl on the block because she had a jungle gym in her front yard, and her yard had grass. Her mother would give us treats like lemon bars and iced tea during our play dates. It was one of the best memories from my childhood.

See, the reservation is full of beauty with our rich culture, but one thing the reservation lacks is physical beauty. When someone visits the Hopi reservation, visitors are quickly greeted with trash and more trash. We can have the most sacred songs, the most authentic way of Native life in any Mel Gibson film. But when it comes to physical beauty here on the Hopi reservation, it looks like that movie with Kurt Russell done back in the early 90s, when humans destroyed Los Angeles.

What I’m trying to say is that our land is not beautiful; we cannot sing sacred songs while looking like “Escape from L.A.” the movie.

So how can we be blind to the reservation when it asks for help?

I was in my local village just looking around, and I must tell you that we love soda pop. I saw pop cans, beer cans, and broken cars in the middle of nowhere. In all that, it occurred to me that it seems that Hopis would travel great distances to the middle of nowhere to throw a bag of trash in the middle of that “nowhere.” Just so they don’t have to throw it away in a proper trash can.

Now, I try my best to collect the trash, but my trash bag fills up before I travel off the mesa. So, it occurred to me that some Hopis don’t seem to care about their land, or seem to want to protect it, or seem to want to teach the youth about how we should take care of Mother Nature. Some of us have become so colonized and numb to a certain point that we are stuck in our hopes that someone else will take the responsibility to clean up after us and others.

Don’t get me wrong, I know that some people are trying their best to help Mother Nature and teach our youth how to be mindful of their land, and believe me, some kids are trying their best to keep this Hopi land clean, too. It just seems to me that those individuals represent a small minority.

Our local waste management program on the Hopi reservation is trying its hardest to provide services to the Hopi people. The lack of funding and resources, makes it tough for them to try to give the best services to the people. So how can we help them? Maybe have a bake sale for them so they can fix up their truck, so I can have my trash emptied regularly. The idea is to quit complaining and start helping our community. If you see trash, pick it up and throw it in a trash can, but if we continue to complain about our “trashy” reservation, we will never find a solution to our problem. And yes, I am hearing myself which is part of the plan.

When you live on a reservation and very poor is all you know, young and older people seem to not care about the consequences of living like this. We can solve simple problems like this if we just all pitch in and pick up a pop can and throw it away in the trash. If we start with simple issues like this and solve them quickly, we can begin to solve more complex problems and realize that simple solutions can solve our problems.

Don’t get me wrong, some problems are harder to solve, as our current money problems, but I’m pretty sure there is a solution.

Even though we lack the beauty of the Hopi reservation, our flowers don’t grow, our trees aren’t green, and our waters are scarce. We have beauty in our hearts and our souls and like the old saying goes, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”

My advice to you is that we can pass the trash around and wait till someone comes and solves the issue for us, or we can start solving our own problems and work towards beautifying this place we call home. The Hopi land is not supposed to be this tan, we have rich colors like our traditional clothes, and we have bold colors like what’s in our hearts. We have the power to make a change, but are we willing to change it? That question is totally up to you.
The Native American Disability Law Center (Law Center) is looking for qualified applicants to fill the following positions:
1. Representative Payee Advocate
2. Communications & Outreach Associate
3. Social Worker

Closing Date for each position: Open Until Filled

The Law Center is a private non-profit organization that provides legal services to Native Americans with disabilities living on or near the Navajo and Hopi reservations. The Law Center is committed to ensuring that Native Americans with disabilities have access to justice and are empowered and equal members of their communities.

The Law Center is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Preference is given to qualified Hopi, Navajo and other Native American applicants. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

For an application and job description for each position, please call 505-566-5880 or send email to info@nativedisabilitylaw.org.

To apply: Please submit cover letter, resume and application to:
Therese E. Yanan 
Executive Director
Native American Disability Law Center, Inc.
905 W. Apache Street
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

The Hopi Tribe P.O. Box 123 Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039 
Ph: (928) 734-3281 • Ph: (928) 734-3283

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ARTICLES:
The Hopi Tutuveni welcomes original articles reporting on local, state and national news 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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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.

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CIRCULATION
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Announcement
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CLOSING DATE: May 6, 2022

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For more information or submit resume, please contact Courtney Erickson at (928) 522-8675 or email cerickson@htedc.net

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The GM is responsible for all areas of the operations as well as the successful coordination and directing of activities within the Hopi Cultural Center.

Selected applicants must have: A professional, positive attitude with employees, co-workers, and general public; Maintain product and service quality standards; and assist employees in maintaining a seamless, positive experience for guests in all aspects of the Hopi Cultural Center.

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For more information, please contact Cindy Smiley at (928) 522-8675 or email csmith@htedc.net

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Indigenous activists decry retailer over Amazon deforestation

Jade Le Deley
Associated Press

PARIS — A Paris judge on Thursday ordered a mediation process to settle a legal dispute pitting environmental groups and representatives of Brazil's Indigenous community against a major French retailer accused of selling beef linked to deforestation and land grabs in the Amazon rainforest.

Several leading Indigenous representatives, including some wearing traditional headdresses, traveled from Brazil to the main Paris courthouse, where they held a demonstration to denounce international threats to their territories and attract public attention to cattle farming practices in the Amazon.

Climate groups and Indigenous activists filed a lawsuit last year against France's Casino Group, which has supermarkets around the world, accusing it of violating human rights and environmental rules.

At a court hearing Thursday, the judge ordered both parties to try to reach an agreement by Sept. 15 through a confidential mediation process. If no agreement can be reached, the case will go to trial.

“We will meet with the mediator before the end of July and see if we can start a mediation process upon analyzing the Casino proposals,” said Sebastien Mabile, a lawyer for one of the environmental groups.

Casino Group lawyers Sébastien Shapira and Thomas Rouhette told The Associated Press that the France-based supermarket chain “satisfied” with the judge’s move and has always been open to discussion. The company said it is “undoubtedly one of the companies most advanced in combating deforestation,” without elaborating on measures it takes to do so.

For the Indigenous movement, the lawsuit against Casino Group is an attempt to hold someone accountable for buying cattle they say is raised illegally in their territory, with activists warning that far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro’s government policies are further threatening indigenous lands.

Since taking office in 2019, Bolsonaro has repeatedly said that Indigenous peoples have too much land, saying he would revise demarcations, even though such a move is forbidden by law.

Cattle ranching is one of the main drivers of deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon, with levels reaching record highs this year. More than 1,000 square kilometers (nearly 400 square miles) were deforested in April, according to satellite alerts. The biome holds about 57 million hectares (140.8 million acres) of pasture, an area slightly larger than France, according to MapBiomas, a network of nonprofits, universities and technology startups.

7 Behavioral Health Tips for Older Adults

(StatePoint) Older adults experiencing a behavioral health issue such as anxiety or depression may be embarrassed and think they simply need to “pull themselves up by their bootstraps,” but helping them seek help can empower them to live their best lives, according to experts.

“Everyone is different, but there are tools for better health, including therapy, medication and self-care,” said Dr. Lindsay Evans-Mitchell, medical director for behavioral health for Cigna Medicare Advantage.

Behavioral health disorders affect one in five adults over 55. Older men have the highest suicide rate of any age group or gender. Among men who are 75 and older, the suicide rate is 40.2 per 100,000 – almost triple the overall rate.

The most common behavioral health disorder in older adults is dementia, and its incidence is growing as the Baby Boomer generation ages. Experts project that more than 9 million Americans 65 years or older will have dementia by 2030. Anxiety disorders and mood disorders are also common among older people.

Dealing with a behavioral health issue? These self-care tips can help:

1. Find a Provider. “Cognitive disorders, such as dementia and mood disorders, often look the same,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said. “Only a trained professional can make an accurate diagnosis.” For help finding a provider, reach out to your primary care physician or health plan, such as Medicare or Medicare Advantage. Also consider virtual therapy. It’s easy to schedule and offers the convenience of seeing a therapist without leaving home.

2. Nurture Yourself. Good nutrition feeds the body and mind. If you have questions about nutrition for older adults, consult your physician or a registered dietitian. Additionally, drink water throughout the day. “Dehydration can worsen cognitive issues,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said.

3. Sleep Well. Like all adults, older people need seven to nine hours of sleep nightly. Dr. Evans-Mitchell noted that older people’s tendency to go to bed early, wake up early, and nap throughout the day can disrupt healthy sleep cycles and limit rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, potentially contributing to behavioral health issues.

4. Exercise. Even moderate exercise can improve mental and physical health. The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans describes benefits such as improvements in brain health, better cognitive function, and reduced risk of anxiety and mood disorders. People who exercise also tend to sleep better. Having trouble getting started? Some Medicare Advantage plans include a fitness benefit, which can pay for a gym membership or provide at-home fitness tools.

5. Head Outside. Being outside has numerous benefits, including vitamin D absorption needed for cognitive health. Additionally, research has shown that chemicals released from trees can stimulate brain functions. Don’t forget the sunscreen though, as skin cancer is most common in people older than 65.

6. Buddy Up. Papa, available through some Cigna Medicare Advantage plans, connects older adults and their families with “Papa Pals” for companionship and support. “Papa Pals” can provide transportation, help with everyday tasks -- or simply be a friend, doing activities like watching movies or playing games.

7. Parent a Pet. Caring for pets generates positive emotions and can reduce anxiety. Just petting a dog has been shown to lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and pets provide a bond that can elevate two feel-good brain chemicals: oxytocin and dopamine. Dogs also encourage people to exercise outdoors.

“Behavioral health issues can be complex and confusing to navigate, but taking positive actions can be empowering,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said. “It’s never too late to make a new start.”
Bradley W. Parks
Oregon Public Broadcast/Associated Press

The pond is full again at Upingaksraq Spring Alaska Schreiner’s high desert farm. It’s a welcome sight for Schreiner, who owns Sakari Farms north of Bend, Oregon.

Last summer, as drought punished Central Oregon, Schreiner’s irrigation district stopped delivering water. She watched as the pond gradually disappeared, leaving a mud puddle behind.

“I cried last year when I walked through the dry canal,” Schreiner told Oregon Public Broadcasting. “I was pissed. I was like, ‘There’s nothing we can do.’”

Schreiner has rights to a little over two acre-feet of water, which makes its way to the farm from the Deschutes River through a series of pipes and canals.

She only got a fraction of that amount last year.

This year is looking worse.

Gov. Kate Brown has already declared drought emergencies in 16 Oregon counties, including Deschutes. That’s the most ever for this time of year, and Oregon farmers like Schreiner are on edge.

“I’m not sure how to cope with going in this year knowing that there’s less water or no water,” Schreiner said.

Schreiner is Inupiaq, a citizen of the Valdez Native Tribe of Alaska and Chugach Alaska Native Corporation. Her traditional name is Upingaksraq, which means “the time when the ice breaks.” She opened Sakari Botanicals in 2012 and Sakari Farms in 2018 to bolster and restore access to traditional foods for Indigenous people locally in Central Oregon and across the country.

Native people will send seeds to Sakari, which means “sweet.” The farm will grow the plants, collect the new seeds and send them back, keeping Indigenous plant varieties going strong. Sakari also hosts farm education, tribal cooking classes and tribal community events.

Water has sustained that vision to this point, but now Schreiner knows that water is no longer a guarantee.

“All I can do is implement it practically,” she said.

She’s channeling the frustration she felt last year into solutions.

On a hill behind the farmhouse are four old chain-link fence panels surrounding a bare patch of dirt. Beneath the surface is an elaborate pattern of squash seeds, beans and corn — the three sisters.

Schreiner won’t water the plot, but said she’s hoping seedlings will soon emerge from the dirt. She said the moment will surely bring her to tears.

“It’s literally your ancestors telling you thank you for trying this,” Schreiner said.

The hilltop plot represents one of the best hopes for Sakari’s future. Indigenous people, particularly the Hopi, have practiced dryland farming for thousands of years in semi-arid regions, relying solely on rain and snowmelt to grow crops.

“It’s imperative that we look for guidance from Indigenous people on fire management, climate change, water usage, how we grow our crops, when, why,” Schreiner said. “No one asks us how to do things. They just kinda push us in the corner. And that’ll bite them, I think.”

Schreiner is also installing more drip irrigation at Sakari and securing grant money to implement new technologies like weather stations and water sensors on-farm to improve efficiency.

She said she’s learned lessons on what not to do by watching other farmers fail. For example, Schreiner won’t truck in water from elsewhere if her pond goes dry again this year.

“I’m still promoting all the farmers to grow as much food as they can and extend the seasons,” Schreiner said. “But it’s not natural, so that’s where we’re going to be ahead of the game.”

Sakari is almost fully planted and will only plant once this year. Farm workers Harrison Hill and Kobe Stites were busy putting bean starts in the ground on a hot Wednesday in late May.

“The water that we did have to start out the season isn’t always going to be here,” Hill said. “We’re going to have to learn how to use it most effectively.”

Schreiner said if the water’s shut off again, she’ll cut off the farm plot-by-plot and seek financial relief for failed crops.

Still, the plants’ resilience and that of the people who have grown those plants since time immemorial give Schreiner confidence — even in the face of Oregon’s driest future.

Justin Grant watches water flow from his agricultural well, Saturday, July 24, 2021, in Klamath Falls, Ore. Dozens of domestic wells have gone dry in an area near the Oregon-California border where the American West's worsening drought has taken a particularly dramatic toll. (AP Photo/Nathan Howard)
WINNEBAGO, Neb. — What started as a seemingly routine tribal council vote sparked serious controversy on the Winnebago Reservation in northeast Nebraska this spring.

That vote – which appeared to ban the recognition of same-sex marriage – sparked anger and fear in the tribe’s LGBTQ members and local residents. It inspired a video by a relative of a famed Native activist. The video was viewed by more than a million people and compelled hundreds to write, call, email and march to protest.

And it resulted in something you don’t see much in American politics in 2022.

The tribal council listened to the criticism. It met again. And it changed its mind.

“I feel like it was impactful. And, you know, it may have been maybe difficult to hear for some people. But I feel like that needed to happen,” said Willy Bass, one of the protesters, of the months-long fight. “It was bigger than any single one of us. This is about setting up the future of our tribe, for success, for safety, for equal rights for everybody.”

It started mundanely enough on March 24.

That night, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska’s tribal court sought clarification on same-sex marriage within its constitution. While same-sex marriage has been legal across the United States, including in Nebraska, since 2015, not all tribes have updated their legal codes to reflect it. Some tribes rolled it into their existing laws. Others, like the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, approved an amendment recognizing same-sex marriage.

During its monthly meeting with tribal attorneys, the council was asked to add recognition of same-sex marriage and divorce to the tribe’s legal code. Vice-chairman Bryan Chamberlain introduced the motion. Council member Lorelai DeCora seconded it.

That’s when things went off the rails.

Some council members, including Aric Armell, a first-term council member, questioned whether the council should support the resolution. Council members allegedly used homophobic language during the discussion, including referring to LGBTQ residents as “trash people,” who should be banned from the tribe, according to five people who watched the tribal council meeting online.

And four members – the majority of the council – voted against the resolution to recognize same-sex marriage in the tribe’s legal code.

Armell did not respond to multiple requests for an interview via email, Facebook and phone messages left with the tribal office.

Believing some council members may have misunderstood the role of Schiange – the Winnebago term for LGBTQ – Sunshine Thomas Bear sought to clarify the history. Thomas Bear, the director of Angel DeCora Museum at Winnebago’s Little Priest College, met with council members after the meeting to review LGBTQ people throughout the tribe’s history.

“I don’t want to say they were held higher, but they were often prophets and healers,” she said.

Two Spirit is a relatively new term created 30 years ago by Indigenous people, Thomas Bear said. It’s since become accepted and embraced as a common term used by and for LGBTQ Native Americans.

And Two Spirits became vocal about the council’s initial vote. Tribal meetings are open to Winnebago citizens and can be watched on YouTube only by tribal citizens.

When 17-year-old Tyler LaMere saw the video of the meeting, he decided he needed to act.

Tyler is the great-nephew of Frank LeMere, a famed Native activist who, before his death in 2019, successfully led efforts to shut down alcohol sales in Whiteclay.

Tyler LaMere was 11 when he came out as Two Spirit. He was 15 when he came out as a transgender male.

“For a long time, I knew I was different,” he said.

He decided to make a TikTok video. He recapped the vote, noting homophobic language being used during discussion and called for help in appealing the decision.

Some 1.5 million have since viewed it on that social media platform.

The video inspired hundreds of people – LGBTQ and supporters, Native and non-Native – to swamp council members with phone calls and emails.

The social media campaign led to the council’s reconsideration during an April 11 meeting. Council member Isaac Smith, one of the four who had voted to ban same-sex marriage from the tribal code, introduced a motion to reconsider that vote. It passed 5-0 with two abstentions.

Then the council voted to add same-sex marriage to the tribal court code. (The council previously voted to add same-sex divorce to the code during the March 24 meeting.)

CONT ON PG. 21
Same-sex marriage vote protest on tribal land leads to change, Cont.

Same-sex marriage was now legally recognized by the Winnebago Tribe, but the struggle left a hole in the tribe’s fabric, said Willy Bass, who works as a community impact and engagement manager for Ho-Chunk Inc. Bass, who married his husband Antonio in Sioux City in 2012, couldn’t have been married by a Winnebago judge if the original vote had been sustained, he said.

“But, I could get a divorce in the same court, like I would be correcting a wrong,” he said.

The council didn’t realize its impact on younger Winnebagos coming out, Bass said. It took him until attending college in Montana, and surrounding himself with people he could trust, before he publicly announced he was gay.

“When someone comes out, they have to prepare for two things. One is to be accepted,” he said. “That lifts so much stress and burden off your shoulders. The second thing is rejection by the people you most care about, your mom and your dad. My plan, if I was rejected, was to leave here. If I was going to lose my family, I didn’t want to be here.”

Bass was one of the fortunate ones, he thinks. When he told his mother he had met a man, she simply asked when she was going to meet him.

If young people don’t feel that they trust people enough to come out, the consequences can be dire.

“They stay in hiding,” he said. “They keep it bottled up. They turn to alcoholism, drug abuse. They turn to suicide. Whatever it is that helps relieve them from feeling that stress inside themselves every day.”

Smith, one council member who changed his mind, said he and other council members felt blindsided by the initial resolution to add same-sex marriage to the court code. He doesn’t oppose same-sex marriage, but wanted to have a conversation about the need to add it to the court’s code, Smith said.

He originally voted against approving the resolution, he said, because he believed it would lead tribal citizens to fight.

“I don’t want Indian fighting Indian,” he said.

The activism – and the education – didn’t end when the tribal council overturned its vote.

Two dozen LGBTQ tribal citizens and supporters rallied in front of the tribal court building on the southern edge of the reservation. Then, nearly two dozen people marched to the council’s April 18 meeting. Three members of the LGBTQ community addressed the council, including Bass, LaMere and Curtis Alexander, president of the Winnebago Two Spirits organization.

“We are the only ones who have to identify ourselves,” Bass said. “Straight people don’t have to defend themselves.”

Alexander, an Omaha tribal citizen who grew up in Winnebago, told council members that he and others were tired of fighting this battle.

“I hear it every day,” he said. “I hear the slurs. On TV. From co-workers. It’s challenging. I can take it, but it gets hard.”

Members of the Winnebago Two Spirits seek to take on today’s challenges, so that future generations can just live their lives, Bass said.

“My husband and I will be OK,” Bass said. “We’re doing this for future generations. We want them to be themselves. We want it to just be.”

For elders, education is key, council member Louis LaRose said.

“I support them,” the tribal council member said. “I just need to know how they want me to address them. I need to know them. Their family. I need to know who they are.”

LaRose thought it was important that the council heard from the Two Spirit community this spring.

“You have to educate people like me,” he said. “I don’t like to offend people. It’s a learning experience for us.”

Winnebago Chairwoman Victoria Kitcheyan, a longtime LGBTQ supporter, hosted a listening session for council members, giving Two Spirits an opportunity to share their concerns and ideas for the future. Only one council member attended, suggesting there’s still work left to do for LGBTQ tribal members and their supporters, Alexander said.

But the council did recently approve a resolution recognizing June as Winnebago Pride Month. It was one of only a few rural communities in Nebraska to do so. “You usually only see this with urban Indian groups,” Alexander said.

The council also approved funding a community lunch sponsored by the Two Spirits group, as well as authorizing a paid day off for tribal employees interested in attending it.

The key to openly accepting Two Spirit people is to decolonize, Thomas Bear said. Native Americans have allowed themselves to move away from Indigenous traditions and culture, accepting more Euro-American views on some social issues, including those on LGBTQ rights and equality, she said.

“So many things that we say, think and do are based on colonization,” Thomas Bear said.

The protest before the council, and the resulting conversation about LGBTQ rights, will help tribal citizens for decades to come, Bass said.

“We’re doing this for future generations,” he said. “We want them to be themselves.”

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Hopi Tutuveni
A doll brings pride, identity for Indigenous woman

Diane Jeantet
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Luakam Anambé wanted her newborn granddaughter to have a doll — something she’d never owned as a child working in slave-like conditions in Brazil’s Amazon rainforest. But she wanted the doll to share their Indigenous features, and there was nothing like that in stores. So she sewed one herself from cloth and stuffing.

The doll had brown skin, long, dark hair, and the same face and body paint used by the Anambé people. It delighted passersby; while Indigenous dolls can be found elsewhere in Latin America, they remain mostly absent in Brazil, home to nearly 900,000 people identifying as Indigenous in the last census.

A business idea was born, and her modest home now doubles as a workshop where she and her daughter produce dolls for a growing clientele.

“Before, only White dolls existed, then came the Black ones, but Indigenous ones didn’t appear,” said Anambé, 53, wearing a beaded necklace and a headdress of delicate orange feathers. “When Indigenous women see the dolls, they sometimes cry.”

Since 2013, Anambé has sold more than 5,000 dolls at local fairs and through social media, mailing them across the country, and she is fundraising to attend a German fair with the aim of exporting to Europe. Her burgeoning business in Rio de Janeiro is a world removed from the Amazonian state of Para, where her life of hardship began.

She was one of 15 children and Anambé’s parents sent her and two sisters to live and work at a plantation. Just 7 years old, she was charged with looking after the plantation owner’s toddler. She remembers being rebuked after asking the owner’s wife for a doll; she should work, not play, Anambé recalls being told. And she received no compassion when telling the woman that she had been sexually abused. She never received any pay, and complaints often ended with young Anambé locked in a dark tobacco storeroom, alone.

Anambé said she was 15 when the plantation owner forced her to marry his friend, a man two decades her senior, with whom she had a daughter. Anambé soon fled her violent husband, leaving her baby with family.

“We’re fighters, in a fight to survive,” she said, referring to Indigenous people who regularly face peril from Amazon land grabbers, loggers, ranchers and miners.

Before colonization, “there were millions of Indigenous people in Brazil. Today, there are far fewer. And every passing day, less and less.”

Anambé worked for years as a cleaning lady in Belem, Para state’s capital. But she felt life had more in store for her and that she should seek opportunities in one of Brazil’s biggest cities. She hitched an eight-day ride to Rio with a long-haul trucker and thought of him as a godsend, especially because he didn’t abuse her.

Her Indigenous features stood out in Rio, and she experienced prejudice. Eventually, she landed a job in a bikini factory and was able to send for her daughter, by then in her twenties. Little by little, they saved enough money to move from their one-room shack to a small home, where she started making clothes for some fashionable Rio brands. With the skills she developed sitting behind her sewing machine, she made her first doll.

“It’s like a mirror,” said her daughter, Atyna Porã, who now works with her mother. “Through the doll, we see ourselves, and we have to break down the taboo behind it, because we have always been very discriminated against.”

Anambé and Porã have expanded their portfolio to include dolls bearing face and body paints of five other Indigenous groups. Each is handsewn, dressed in traditional clothes and carefully painted with a sharpened branch from a tree in their backyard, following Indigenous custom.

While they were the first to reach a broad audience using social media, others have followed in their footsteps. Indigenous fashion designer We’e’ena Tikuna, also born in the Amazon rainforest and now based in Rio, started making Indigenous dolls to dress them in her creations. “I admire her work, like that of other Indigenous women,” Tikuna said of Anambé. “We need that Indigenous representation.”

Anambé named her first doll after Atyna’s daughter, Anaty, which became her company’s name. And 20 percent of proceeds go to her nonprofit, Maria Vicentina, named for her mother and grandmother. Based in Para, it will provide seamstress training to women under duress, growing the Anaty doll operation while helping provide them financial independence.

“When I left the state of Para, I didn’t leave just for myself. I went for other women, too,” Anambé said. “Anaty came to give this empowerment to us, Indigenous women.”
Education reparation: UC tuition scholarships for Natives are just, overdue

Randall Akee
Native Hawaiian
UCLA Associate Professor of Public Policy and American Indian Studies

Phenicia Bauerle
Crow Nation
UC Berkeley Director of Native American Student Development

Paul Ong
UCLA Professor of Urban Planning

Desi Small-Rodriguez
Northern Cheyenne and Chicana
UCLA Associate Professor of Public Policy and American Hawaiian

The University of California system is one of the largest and most prestigious post-secondary educational institutions in the country. Its beginnings 170 years ago were fraught as they were humble. The Morrill Act enabled the creation of land-grant colleges, which were resource by the sale of federal lands. These lands were, in many cases, stewarded by tribes, and they ended up in the hands of the federal government sometimes by treaty and often through seizure. Although a critical driving force behind California’s continued economic and technological successes, UC has not been sufficiently accessible to the very people whose dispossession was core to its founding.

In a monumental move, the State of California is looking to correct historical injustice and promote greater inclusiveness of Native Americans, a group that to this day encounters numerous systemic barriers to post-secondary education. The UC Office of the President, under President Michael V. Drake, has established the Native American Opportunity Plan that will take effect in the fall of 2022. The tuition scholarship will cover in-state tuition and fees for American Indians and Alaska Natives California residents who are enrolled members of any federally-recognized tribe. This tuition scholarship will apply for all University of California undergraduate and graduate programs and at all campuses. Not only will the plan begin to address some of the education barriers that marginalize American Indian and Alaska Native people, it is also an acknowledgement that UC has benefited enormously from the sale of lands that were stolen through various means from Indigenous peoples and, still today, sits on parcels that rightfully belong to tribal nations and communities. While the plan does not address non-federally recognized tribes, there has been outreach and discussion with external entities to encourage the creation of a foundation that will fund California resident members of non-federally recognized tribes.

The plan is sure to draw the ire of those who would cry “reverse racism,” but unlike explicitly race-based affirmative action programs – which are important and necessary in their own rights – this plan is rooted in the recognition of tribal sovereignty. The plan is premised upon the political class – not the race – of tribal members, a distinct political class established by the Supreme Court.

With this Plan, UC greatly expands on other universities’ efforts to right historical wrongs. For example, Georgetown University – in light of the revelation that in 1838 the institution sold 271 people it had enslaved to keep the university afloat – announced that it would create an admissions preference for the descendants of those enslaved people. Additionally, the Montana University System has one of the longest-standing tuition waiver policies for American Indian students in the country since its adoption in 2008. However, the Montana’s program only applies to students eligible for need based aid.

The UC Office of the President program is financially more ambitious, covering all in-state tuition and fees for any UC students who are California residents and enrolled members of any federally-recognized tribe in any of the 49 states. This is not a trivial amount, having an annual value of roughly $14,000 per student. This funding will provide financial support for approximately 20 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native undergraduate students who currently do not receive financial aid.

This ambitious UC Office of the President program may help to close the persistent educational attainment gap suffered by American Indians and Alaska Natives. Among those between the ages of 24-35, a critical period when career paths are defined for young adults, Indigenous people are far less likely to have a college education, thus relegated to the lower segments of the labor market. Among those in the prime college-going ages of 19-24, less than a third of American Indians and Alaska Natives are enrolled, compared with nearly half of non-Hispanic whites.

There is evidence that cost is a barrier to attending UC and other institutions that offer a bachelor’s degree. American Indian and Alaska Native undergraduates are concentrated in two-year community colleges, where costs are lower. About two-in-five American Indians and Alaska Natives with some post-secondary education have student debt payments of at least $350 or more per month. This is a larger proportion than for any other race or ethnic category. The UC Plan will remove these initial cost barriers as well as the ongoing burden of debt.

The UC system is leading the way in acknowledging its place and role in educating Indigenous people. It is our hope that this new UC Office of the President program will be a call to action to other public, land-grant institutions in the US. In the absence of similar programs in other locations, the UC system as a whole will gain a significant advantage in recruiting the best and brightest American Indian and Alaska Native students from around the country. Whether motivated by justice, competitive disadvantage, or both, other institutions that serve Indigenous peoples – such as the University of Hawai’i that sits on Hawaiian Kingdom lands – should see UC’s plan as a wake-up call.
Cherokee robotics team competes in world championship

Lindsey Bark
Cherokee Phoenix

KENWOOD, Okla. – In less than a year, Kenwood Public School formed a robotics team and qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship.

All Cherokee Nation citizens, the Kenwood Public School team qualified for the state tournament in February and then became state runners-up in the VEX Robotics State Championship in March.

Eighth-graders Aaron Smith and Greyson Hansen, seventh-grader Josiah Sapp and fifth-grader Blake Smith represented their small Delaware County community on a big stage against competitors from around the world May 8-10 in Dallas.

Kenwood competed in the middle school division among 78 teams and ranked number 42 at the end of the three-day tournament after competing in 10 matches. They competed in the skills competition where the objective was to score points by making their robots gather and clear yellow balls from a corral, shoot them into a box and hang the robot itself using a built-in hook.

“You have to make sure that (the robot) shoots or pushes,” Aaron said. “If it can push, and not shoot, your objective would be to get it under the bar next to the goal. It gives you two points. If you want to make it hang, it will be an extra six points. If you can shoot, you will aiming at the blue box and it will be six points. A high hang will be an extra 10 points. There’s five yellow balls on each side of the corral. If you clear out the corral you get five points, as well.”

Coach Marty Matzenbacher, known as Mr. Marty by the students, said he was proud of the team and how well it did in its first year of robotics.

“I was very proud,” Matzenbacher said. “Being a first-year group of kids that didn’t know much of anything about robotics learning how to make these complex machines; there’s a lot of different parts, being able to maintain them, and seeing that they could do that well and drive, it was cool to see those kids drive.”

Matzenbacher said that it’s important for Kenwood to offer opportunities like robotics as a part of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

“Sports isn’t the only hope of what you may do in the future,” Matzenbacher said. “They can use their brains and it provides a tremendous amount of opportunities. If I could, I would start them in first grade in robotics and start building them up and these kids will learn this whole process and be ready to go out there and see the world, and the opportunities will be there. The scholarships are phenomenal in this.”

Greyson said the experience of being at the world tournament was “cool.”

“I thought it was cool because I got to see a bunch of other countries that I probably won’t ever go to in my life,” Greyson said. “I got to meet some people and they were friendly. At first I felt almost anxious and then I got used to it.”

The Kenwood team represented the Cherokee Nation and was one of several tribes at the tournament.

Greyson added that competing at the level they were at was different.

“Sometimes competing was kind of hard, but we got over that challenge pretty easy,” he said.

Greyson and Aaron have since graduated from Kenwood and will attend high school in the fall while Blake and Josiah will remain at Kenwood.

Matzenbacher said he expects more students to be interested in robotics next school year.

“I would love to get fifth- and sixth-graders involved right away. I think we’ll have more kids now,” he said. “This whole community’s behind this; that’s the amazing part. It’s not sports, but man it’s amazing to see how they support these kids in this. It’s just an opportunity and they’re happy to see it.”

Summer Travel Safety Tips

(StatePoint) While everyone looks forward to summer road trips, travel can come with unexpected safety emergencies.

David Nance, founder of SABRE Personal Safety Academy and CEO of SABRE, the number one personal safety brand of consumers and law enforcement worldwide, provides travel protection tips for different scenarios.

Driving

The National Safety Council says traffic death rates are three times greater at night. “If you can’t avoid night driving, have at least one passenger stay awake to talk to the driver,” says Nance.

You can also make car travel safer with the SABRE Safe Escape 3-In-1 Pepper Gel With Seat Belt Cutter and Window Breaker with Snap Clip. The built-in belt cutter helps free yourself in an emergency, while the steel window breaker could come in handy if vehicle doors are jammed or electric windows fail to operate. Another good choice for driving is the 2-in-1 Flashlight With Pepper Spray, SABRE PepperLight. Ideal for helping navigate auto issues such as changing a tire at night, its ultra-bright flashlight shines up to 540 feet, and its strobe flashlight setting can ward off and disorient potential threats. It also contains 25 bursts of pepper spray for protection against multiple threats.

Around Town

“Looking at your smartphone can distract you from noticing potential threats,” says Nance. “Stay engaged while exploring a new destination.”

At the same time, you can also use tech to your advantage to store emergency contacts and access safety apps. Using geo-tracking technology through the free SABRE Personal Safety App, SABRE’s SMART Pepper Spray connects with a smartphone and sends help alerts to assigned emergency contacts. They’ll be immediately notified of your location if the SMART Pepper Spray is deployed or the in-app alert button is pressed. It can also alert first responders with a subscription.

For a smaller pepper spray option that is about the size of a lipstick and can be easily carried for on-the-go safety, try Mighty Discreet. Its twist top prevents accidental discharge and the snap clip provides immediate accessibility.

Going out for the night? Keep an eye on your beverage and don’t accept drinks from strangers. Be sure to watch out for your travel companions too. If they’ve had more than their limit, don’t let them leave alone with strangers.

At the Hotel

Don’t take chances. Lock the doors at your hotel and secure important belongings in the safe. For extra protection, you can take home security on the road with the SABRE Door Stop Alarm, a portable, wireless alarm that doesn’t require installation and can be heard up to 1,000 feet away, alerting neighbors and helping frighten intruders. Its wedge shape blocks inward opening doors.

“Having personal safety products is part of the equation. Knowing how to use them safely is just as important,” says Nance. “You’ll want to create a clear safety plan. If you’re carrying pepper spray, consider practicing first. Practice water canisters are available and a good idea for first-time users.”

Products from SABRE are available nationwide at Walmart, Target, Amazon, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Lowe’s, Menards, Academy, and Bass Pro Shops, among other national retailers. While it’s legal to carry these safety products in all 50 states, check local laws where you’ll be traveling. For more information and safety tips, visit www.sabrered.com.

With smart safety strategies and tools, you can make summer travel just what it should be -- a time to explore, relax and have fun.