



The Village Crier

First Mesa Consolidated Villages

December 7, 2020

Volume 1, No. 18

Kyaamuya

Soyalang

Moon of Respect

Beginning of the
Hopi New Year

THIS MONTH IN HOPI HISTORY

1780, 1840, 1853-54
and 1897-98:

Deadly Smallpox vi-
rus took the lives of
many Hopi people.

1882:

US President Chester
A. Arthur signed Ex-
ecutive Order, desig-
nating the Hopi Res-
ervation.

1890:

Hopi Children cap-
tured by force and
sent to school

1936:

Hopi Constitution
adopted, which estab-
lished the Hopi Tribal
Council.

Winter Solstice Begins

PUBLICATION DATE:

1st & 3rd Monday
of the month

DEADLINE:

News articles,
Announcements,
Letters to Editor, etc.,
Due Wednesday, 1pm

CONTACT:

Louella N. Furcap
Editor
PO Box 260
Polacca, AZ 86042
Tel: 928-737-2670

Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project Underway



Photo Credit: Tim Bodell, HAMP Mgr

Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP) is fully underway on Route 8, near Hardrocks, AZ. Water Tank will provide water to First Mesa.

"A lot is going on at the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP), First Mesa Tank", said HAMP Manager Tim Bodell. "The significance of this site is that from here the water will flow by gravity all the way to fill the Polacca East and West Tanks without the high cost of electricity for pumping. Savings from this will be passed on to the First Mesa Consolidated Villages (FMCV) and, ultimately, the Customers."

First Mesa is a major component of the HAMP due to the largest number of households it serves; including: private, public, federal, tribal businesses, Schools, the Hopi Health Care Center and the Dialysis Center located in First Mesa.

FMCV provides direct services to Hopi

Tribal members, yet does not receive any Village funding from the Hopi Tribe and solely subsidizes the water operations from its businesses in First Mesa. Other Villages receive annual tribal allocations to pay for operations which are all very costly. First Mesa customer payments do not meet the cost of operations, which resulted in a rate increase of water payments in January, 2020. Customers Do Not pay for Water; the Water is Free. It is the cost of Operations: electricity, pumping, repairs and testing that customers pay for.

First Mesa continues to be impacted by the non-completion of HAMP and continues to submit compliance plans and quarterly reports to EPA due to the high arsenic in the water. Several years ago, EPA already ac-

cepted and approved FMCV's initial compliance plan, requiring numerous reports and costly tests.

HAMP Manager Tim Bodell provided FMCV Administrator Ivan Sidney with an update and will schedule a tour of the Project soon. The Project is slated to be complete by 2021.

Nine years after being promised an alternative water source with less arsenic, the HAMP project is now underway. Once complete, FMCV's initial plans are to turn the Polacca Water System over to the Hopi Utility Corporation to manage the system. A water utility operation of this size needs to be managed by an organization focused on serving the water needs of the people.

We are in a very dangerous place

In a recent Coronavirus Task Force Report, Health experts issued dire warnings to States urging public health officials to enact tighter mitigation efforts.

"The COVID risk to all Americans is at a historic high," said the Report which was shared with states and provided data of the pandemic for comparison. "We are in a very dangerous place due to the current, extremely high COVID baseline and limited hospital capacity."

The Report offered this advice: "If you are under 40, you need to assume you became infected during the Thanksgiving period if you gathered beyond your immediate household. Most likely, you will not have symptoms; however, you are dangerous to others and you must isolate away from anyone at increased risk and get tested immediately. If you are over 65 or have significant medical conditions and you gathered outside of your immediate household, you are at

a significant risk for serious COVID infection. If you develop any symptoms, you must be tested immediately."

In many areas of our villages and communities, mitigation efforts remain inadequate. We must all do our part to fight

against this deadly virus.

The First Mesa Leadership encourages everyone to take precaution and protect the health and lives of yourself and family. The Christmas holiday is a favorite time to gather and share a meal. The leadership strongly discourages any gatherings and encourages everyone to stay home; especially, during Kyaamuya.

One death is way too many for our small community.

Editorial: The Hopi Tribe faces a grim future

By Ivan Sidney

First Mesa Consolidated Villages Administrator
Former Hopi Tribal Chairman

This article serves to inform our village and community members of our current status since March 2020 and moving forward as we continue to face the pandemic, known as COVID-19.

At the beginning, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency followed by the State of Arizona. The Hopi Chairman and Vice Chairman also implemented Executive Orders and a Resolution was approved by the First Mesa Consolidated Villages (FMCV) Traditional Leaders adopting an Emergency Plan. These declarations included procedures and protocols to help prevent the spread of the virus, a personal responsibility of every person.

Prior to FMCV Resolution 001-2020, an invitation was extended to Tewa, Sichomovi and Walpi Offices to discuss a joint emergency planning meeting. Only Sichomovi and Walpi attended the first meeting. At the second meeting only Walpi attended and indicated they will continue to operate independently during the emergency. It was our thought that our joint limited resources and services would best serve the village people by working together. This was reported to our Leaders which resulted in their directive to continue providing services, although we had limited resources and lack of funds. They also directed that water and sewer be of critical importance and high priority.

Prior to the COVID -19, we were receiving calls reporting delayed and/or no response by the Hopi Tribal Police to emergency calls. We were informed that the Police were faced with limited staff and having limited detention facility, resulted in no arrests. This demanded that villages create, improve and expand our own Village Security Services. Our Security Services lacked funding, training, equipment (especially communications and vehicles) and immediate assistance from the primary provider. This lack or shortage of Security personnel was critical to implement the restrictions ordered by all executive orders. Although our Leaders invited the Tribal Law Enforcement Services Administration, no response was received, only a letter appreciating our services and warning our Security Officers of being possibly subject to arrests.

We are elated that the HAMP Project is finally progressing to bring in water to immediately replace our wells which have high levels of arsenic. This project has been delayed for almost 15 years due to lack of funding and ongoing delayed planning. Since Tim Bodel was hired as the Hopi Utility Corporation (HUC) Director, the project is now funded and moving forward. This is very important to all of us. Since COVID-19, sanitation has become of critical importance, placing water services a high priority. You must know that FMCV has not received any Tribal Allocations for over twenty years and therefore only uses water payments and Village lease income to provide Water services. I complement our staff for their dedication, despite the many critics and especially accepting the minimal salary.

Recently, Indian Health Services received additional CARES Act funding and most of these funds approved by the Hopi Tribal Council did not include our village although we have the most homes and governmental services. In fact, the Tribal Government continues to not recognize FMCV as a village, which is in violation of their own Constitution.

The Federal Government established the CARES Act and funding amounts were based on residents actually residing on our reservation. Funding is to be used to establish prevention programs to curtail the spread of the virus and to supplement treatment and care. Tribal Governments were contacted and each tribe was responsible for submitting required documents according to the timelines established to receive the funding. As most villages are aware, we were never contacted to be included in the planning to present our needs. We finally read in reports that the Hopi Tribe was eligible for about 65 million

dollars. Since the funding was based on population and that people reside in our villages, we had hoped the funds would be used for our village people. We were later informed that Village Administrators, except FMCV, were invited to meetings to discuss the funding.

Prior to the Federal Funding, the Hopi Tribal Council approved \$1,000,000 (one million) to fund COVID-19 operations. Apparently, these funds were used primarily for HERT operations and some distributed to certain villages. The Hopi Tribe immediately shut down operations and closed tribal programs except for essential programs and implemented work from home orders. We in villages operating essential services, such as water and sewer services, could not shut down and cease operations.

Today, villages still have no direct contact with Indian Health Service (IHS) Officials, although our people continue to face deaths and positive cases requiring special care. IHS must honor the government to government relations by communicating directly with the people it serves. Yet, we were informed that IHS protocol is to communicate only with the Office of the Chairman.

In the meantime, we must assist in providing sanitation supplies and food to isolated victims. Included is assisting with the sanitation of their homes. Most of the positive cases are from multiple families residing in one home. We had previously contacted the Community Health Representative Program but no response since they were closed and therefore not working. To date, we have not had a direct visit from our Health Director but only receive the escalating static information of positive cases. All villages are self-governing and rightfully must be responsible but should also receive support of direct services.

Three years ago, the former Hopi Tribal Housing Authority Executive Director, Mr. Chester Carl, assisted our office to plan and complete a grant application for Indian Community Development funding, provided annually by the Federal Housing and Urban Development. Land with the required infrastructure was approved for this development. The project included a Community Building, Fire Station, 28 Rental Housing units, and a Child Care Center.

Some members of the Board of Commissioners along with our local members politically opposed the grant that resulted in none approval by the Housing Authority. These housing unit design plans were used to construct the Winslow Hopi Housing units.

Two years ago, another grant was submitted to build a community center and fire station, the grant was also disapproved by the Commissioners with no explanation.

Again, over a year ago, FMCV retained a consultant to develop a grant from CARES Act for ten housing units for pandemic recovery and for Veterans and Elderly, a new dialysis center, fire station and improved and expanded Village Public Safety Program. This time, the Board of Commissioners of the HTHA by a majority vote Approved the grant but, the administration along with the Chairperson of the Board Did Not Complete the required Resolution to be submitted in a timely manner to meet the Dead Line.

All these projects would have greatly assisted our people today. Our Traditional leaders supported all these grants by approving land and approval of the grant, all to no avail.

Two years ago, a Clan Leader, supported by our Traditional Leadership, approved land for the Tribal Transportation Program and the AML Program and several years ago, the Elderly Center and Behavioral Services were approved to secure land assignments at First Mesa.

Yet today, the Hopi Administration is constructing the Tawa'Ovi project located at Hardrock, to move 638 funded direct services, stating there is "No Village Lands" available on Hopi. This is Untrue! First Mesa has approved land assignments for tribal programs many times.

I question, Are CARES Act funds being expended for these Projects? These funds are subject to pay back if used for ineligible purposes. I Inquired information from our Tribal Council Representatives, and they stated they did not approve this construction. If CARES Act funds are used, was not the purpose to serve the immediate needs of our people who reside in our villages?

We now read in the December Agenda of the Tribal Council that a hotel secretly purchased many years ago, will be sold at a loss of \$8 million. We also now hear that some of our tribally owned businesses are operating at a financial loss. Also, did you know that the tribally owned Truck Stop in Holbrook was recently sold at a loss?

At the time the Hopi Tribal Council allowed the Navajos residing on Hopi Partitioned Lands to remain on the land, the Federal Government allocated funding to the Hopi Tribe. Through these funds, the Hopi Tribe purchased the businesses and property in the City of Flagstaff, Ranches located on checker board state lands, a Hotel in Sedona, Land in Parker, the Holbrook Truck Stop and the Ranch near Springerville. During these purchases, FMCV Traditional Leadership approached then Chairman Wayne Taylor offering land to build tribally owned businesses to address our people's needs locally. The leaders never received a reply.

Recently, in 2019, the Hopi Tribal Council approved a historic two-year tribal budget at the 2018 and 2019 funding levels. During those years, Hopi was receiving revenues from Peabody Coal. That is no longer available.

Where are the funds being drawn from to meet the 2018 and 2019 level? One can only assume they are coming from our tribal investments? What is the financial worth of the Hopi Tribe today? Where are the immediate written plans to supplement our declining revenues? These are some of the critical questions we must have answered. With the lack of information, we can assume that our children will be faced with a critical and grim financial future.

These are only a few of the issues facing our villages and especially requiring information to allow for responses.

Our Traditional Leaders were prepared to provide approvals for development at the time of the available CARES Act funding. Some of these proposed plans are:

- Resurfacing the Polacca Airstrip to resume doctor visits from Phoenix, allow for emergency flights and receive needed supplies by air transportation.
- Immediate setup for an Insensitive Care unit and inpatient units since our Health Care Facility is an ambulatory care facility.
- Recovery facilities especially for our elderly and veterans.
- Modular units to provide detox centers to remedy limited detention and resulting in persons requiring services walking in our villages.
- Assist all villages for improved water services.
- More direct recovery assistance to COVID-19 infected persons.
- Shared fiber optic connections to improve internet services in our villages and especially to our students.
- Expanded and improved Public Safety Services.

Open letter to Hopi Chairman Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma

By: Benjamin H. Nuvamsa
Former Hopi Tribal Chairman
November 24, 2020

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma,

I write to follow up on the presentation we made to the Hopi Tribal Council on November 16, 2020, on the need for a comprehensive reclamation of the Kayenta Mine and the Black Mesa Mine in accordance with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). We appreciate the opportunity to present this important matter to the Hopi Tribal Council; and in this regard, we appreciate the assistance of Council Member Kooyahoema, who facilitated the presentation.

After over half of a century of mining of our coal on Black Mesa, Peabody Coal Company (Peabody) ceased its mining operations at the Kayenta Mine on August 26, 2019; and the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) shuttered its doors on November 18, 2019. Over fifteen (15) years earlier, in December 2005, the Mohave Generating Station (MGS) shut its operations. Considerable time has passed, yet neither the Office of Surface Mining, Enforcement and Reclamation (OSMRE), nor Peabody have initiated steps toward final reclamation of both Black Mesa mine sites as required by the site leases and by SMCRA.

Considerable damage has been caused by over 50 years of mining at Black Mesa. Hundreds of acres of our lands (surface and subsurface) have been permanently scarred. The availability and quality of our groundwater (Navajo Aquifer and Dakota Aquifer), springs, washes and watersheds have been impacted. Hundreds of burial sites and funerary objects of our ancestors were removed or simply destroyed by use of explosives. See the report, entitled "NAGPRA and Archaeology on Black Mesa, Arizona: Compliance for Peabody Coal Company in Navajoland" by Kimberly Spurr, 1993, Navajo Nation Archaeology Department. In fact, the entire ecosystem of Black Mesa has been permanently damaged. The heavy withdrawal of the aquifers may have affected the quantity and quality of our domestic water supply at our villages. There is significant damage that simply cannot be ignored by our people.

On June 10, 2020, Chairman Masayesva and I wrote to Mr. David Berry, Regional Director of OSMRE, to request that OSMRE comply with SMCRA and initiate reclamation of Kayenta Mine as a "significant permit revision" as required under section 511(a)(2) of SMCRA, 30 U.S.C. §1261(a)(2). A critical part of the "significant permit revision" must include a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will require meaningful consultation with, and participation of, the affected parties (Hopi and Navajo) to ensure a thorough assessment and reclamation activities, a realistic but aggressive timetable for carrying them out, and alternative approaches to reclaim the damaged lands.

Time is of the essence. Why should we be concerned that Peabody and OSMRE will not voluntarily comply with SMCRA? In April 2020, the declining demand for coal forced Peabody to lay off 170 workers at its North Antelope Rochelle Mine (NARM) in Wyoming, the largest coal mine in the world. In July 2020 Peabody was forced to write down the value of NARM by over \$1.42 billion. Between July and September 2020, Peabody's revenue declined by 39 percent. In October 2020, Argonaut Insurance which holds \$202 million in bonds to secure reclamation at the Peabody mines worldwide filed a lawsuit demanding that Peabody put up a collateral of the full amount of the bonds owed because of the company's deteriorating financial condition.

Just this week, Peabody announced that it was cancelling health benefits for all of its retired workers. We also understand Peabody is contemplating another Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. All of this points to a company in major financial distress, and if Peabody becomes insolvent, bankruptcy disputes would almost surely delay reclamation even further.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9, has recently issued a notice of a proposed action under the Clean Water Act to reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, No. NN0022179, to Peabody for the Kayenta Mine Complex. The NPDES permit will "authorize the discharge of treated effluent from Black Mesa/Kayenta Mine Complex to the waters of the United States located in Kayenta, Arizona". The NPDES "contemplates changes to the facility's use, as the facility transitions from its status as an active mine through closure and a final reclamation process." It is important that the Hopi Tribe is aware of this important matter; and that it is involved in the process. The comment period for this action ends December 28, 2020.

The premature closing of the Kayenta Mine and NGS had a severe impact on the economic health and well-being of the Hopi Tribe. This closure was not contemplated when the Kayenta Mine permit was last renewed in 2015. In fact, even though prior to approving the Renewal Permit in October 2017, Peabody notified OSMRE that it would cease mining operations at Kayenta in 2019. The permit renewal was approved anyway with no modifications addressing the cessation of mining and the onset of reclamation work.

The permanent shift to mining activities should have triggered a fundamental shift toward reclamation and closure. However, Peabody seems a long way from completing, or even starting its reclamation work, having utterly failing to meet its legal obligations to reclaim damaged mine lands and resources as "contemporaneously as practicable" with mining.

This will be Hopi's last chance to seek environmental justice from Peabody by demanding that OSMRE initiate a "significant permit revision" as a critical part of formally closing the Kayenta Mine; and to initiate full reclamation of the mine sites as required by federal law.

Without the Hopi Tribe's request, OSMRE and EPA may move ahead with a "rubber stamp" 5-year permit renewal for Kayenta Mine that will allow Peabody to dictate reclamation standards and progress, with little or no input from Hopi (and Navajo). The fact is, the last time there was a major revision to the Kayenta permit was in 1990, meaning Peabody's reclamation plans are now three decades old. OSMRE and EPA may issue a permit without any review or substantive changes and will allow Peabody to continue claiming that mining had no material impact in depleting the Navajo Aquifer (and Dakota Aquifer). Unless the Hopi Tribe acts now to address these issues, there will NOT be another chance to bring them up again.

Enclosed for your information and use is a copy of the power point presentation we used in the meeting with the Hopi Tribal Council on November 16, 2020. Also enclosed is a recommended draft letter that you may use to submit a request to OSMRE to initiate a "significant permit revision" in the closure of the Kayenta Mine. (Enclosures available at the FMCV Office)

We appreciate the opportunity to advise you and the tribal council of this matter that is of utmost importance to our people, the Hopi Sinom. Should you have any questions or desire to have further discussions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Benjamin H. Nuvamsa
 Former Hopi tribal Chairman
 Village of Shungopavi (Bear Clan)

cc:

Honorable Vice Chairman of the Hopi Tribe w/cy of enclosures
 Tribal Council Secretary w/cy of enclosures
 Hopi Tribal Council Members
 Honorable Raul Grijalva, U.S. House of Representatives w/cy of enclosures
 General Counsel, The Hopi Tribe w/cy of enclosures

Enclosures

www.
firstmesaconsolidatedvillages.com

**Condolences to the Family of
 Hawthorne "Tubby" Dewakuku.**

**A person full of life and always
 with a smile on his face.
 He will be missed.**



FIRST MESA CONSOLIDATED VILLAGES

STAFF:

- Ivan Sidney
Village Administrator
- Brannon Sidney
Accountant
- Sharon Grover
Water Clerk
- Merideth Qotswisiwma
Staff Assistant
- Alphonso Sakeva, Jr
Water Operator
- Joshua Huma
Public Safety Officer
- Ramon Howato
Public Safety Officer
- Louella Furcap
Editor/Publisher
Website Administrator

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

- James Tewayguna
Kikmongwi
- Leo Lacapa, Jr.
Soyal Mongwi
- Sam Tenakhongva
Katsin Mongwi

Dickson Silas
Kikmongwi Spokesman

Albert Siquah
Kikmongwi Spokesman

Albert Silas
Kikmongwi Spokesman

TRIBAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- Albert Siquah
- Dale Siquah
- Wallace Youvella, Sr.
- Wallace Youvella, Jr.

First Mesa Consolidated Villages Public Safety Program Report

By: Alphonso Sakeva, Jr.
Public Safety Supervisor

The First Mesa Consolidated Villages Public Safety Officers continue to patrol and monitor the Villages of First Mesa and the Communities of Polacca and Keams Canyon. The Officers encounter various situations on a daily basis.

A few weeks ago, individuals shot at the FMCV patrol unit while Officer was in vehicle. Officer was not injured and there was minor damage to vehicle.

Most recently the Officers responded to a homeowner's call stating she had found dangerous weapons in her backyard, near a trail frequented by individuals. Although the Hopi Law Enforcement Services (HLES) were notified by the homeowners to come pick up the weapons, the Hopi police never responded to the request of residents. The FMCV Public Safety Officers were then called to remove the weapons. Following safety protocols, the items were sent to a secure place for storage.

FMCV officers continue to receive reports by community & village members of criminal related activity; including, Gun Shots being fired, Suspicious

Vehicles, Suspicious Activity, Property Damages and reports of a lot of individuals walking around in the villages and community after Curfew Hours.

On several occasions, Public Safety Officers stopped individuals walking around after Curfew Hours and reminded them of FMCV's Curfew Order and the Hopi Tribes Stay At Home Executive Order, which is still in effect until further notice. First Mesa Curfew Hours begin daily at 8pm to 5am.

FMCV Public Safety Program will continue to serve and provide as much safety and security to its Village Members as possible. We are the largest village within the Hopi Reservation and will continue to serve the community with priority and honor.

The FMCV Public Safety Program and Public Safety Officers reminds community and village members to practice Safe Distancing, Wash and Sanitize your hands, Wear your mask and NO SOCIAL GATHERINGS. Let us all do our part to keep First Mesa Safe!



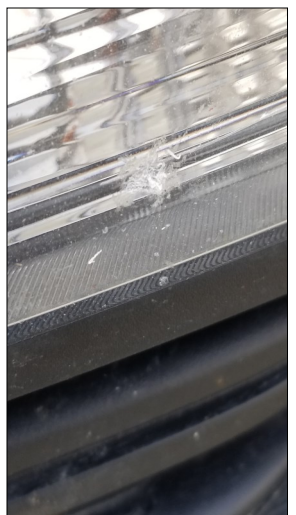
Weapons Found



FMCV Patrol Unit shot at— Officer in vehicle



Bullet hit piercing through license plate



Bullet hit the headlights

Hopi Tribal Council Report

By Wallace Youvella, Jr.

Transportation Committee:

Further discussion requested by Rep. Youvella, Jr. regarding the transfer of idle HDOT funds to an interest bearing account. Chairman Honanie to meet with HDOT Director M. Lomayaktewa to draft a letter to the Treasurer in regards to said account.

Due to the Hopi Tribe being in Phase Zero, all HDOT staff are on a rotational basis until further notice.

Hopi Sinom Transit is also on a very limited basis until further notice.

The HDOT Long Range Plan has been shared with ADOT to work in cooperation to meet the goals and objectives of HDOT. Navajo County will also be afforded the HDOT Long Range Plan.

Hopi Sinom staff are assisting in the sanitizing of medical transports.

A note to the public, Hopi Sinom Transit vehicles are being driven, from time to time, to keep vehicles in good working condi-

tion. Hopi Sinom Transit vehicles are not in service at this time.

Rep. Youvella, Jr. is working with Mr. Lomayaktewa to acquire approval to conduct a Zoom meeting to fulfill the obligation of a public meeting, regarding route 10. Should approval be granted by the funding source, we will move to immediately schedule a meeting with adequate notice to the public.

Investment Committee:

-The Treasurer and Finance Director will work on a resolution regarding the foreclosure of the Seawall properties in Galveston, Tx.

- Due to problems with Zoom connections, Rep. Youvella, Jr. was not able to participate in the remainder of the meeting.

Thank you, as the Holidays approach, please be safe and take precautions to protect yourself and your family during this pandemic.

Wallace Youvella, Jr

Action Items:

-#026-2020 To approve Charter of Incorporation for the Tawa'ovi Community Development Corporation to establish a federally chartered corporation. TABLED by author.

- #061-2020 To approve the settlement agreement in the Hopi Tribe v. United States of America, No. 06-0941 (Fed. Ct of Claims). TABLED by author.

- #082-2020 To approve Judge Justin Richland as Hopi Appellate Court Justice. APPROVED

- #083-2020 To approve the Hopi Project Namitunatya, information to be included in a new publication on improving indigenous peoples health. APPROVED

- #085-2020 To approve and accept \$297,601.00 from the Office of Justice Programs for the SMART FY 2020, Support for the Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant

Program. APPROVED

- #086-2020 To approve the ICWA Attorney Contract with Brian Webb. APPROVED

- #087-2020 To authorize Hopi's Tribally Controlled Schools to request waivers of certain federal regulatory and reporting requirements for the school year 2020-21. APPROVED

- #088-2020 To approve and authorize land access and use consistent with previously approved HAMP design, planning and surveys, for construction and operation of the HAMP water system and powerline. APPROVED

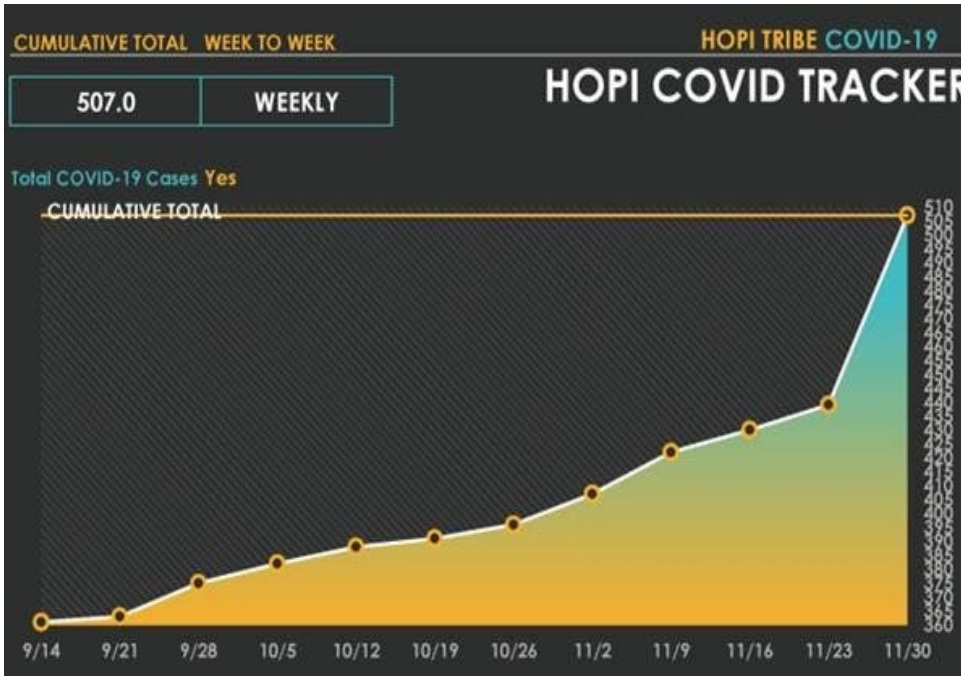
- #084-2020 To clarify duties and authorities of the Law and Order Committee. APPROVED

- #090-2020 To approve completed Enrollment applications for Hopi Membership. APPROVED

- #089-2020 To approve a Continuing Resolution for FY2020 General Fund Budget to FY 2021. APPROVED

Hopi Tribe Department of Health & Human Services

COVID-19, Dec. 2 Report



KYKOTSMOVI, AZ – December 2, 2020 — The COVID-19 mitigation public health experts have asked the public, particularly those who have come into close contact with someone who has the virus, to not fret or deceive contact tracing officials. As quickly as social distancing became a part of our vocabulary is how fast contact tracing is a term that is here to stay as long as we face COVID-19 and the FLU. Coupled with testing, and still without a vaccine, contact tracing is probably our best hope in helping to manage or limit the spread of COVID-19. Health officials continue to remind all that contact tracing is vital to break the chain of coronavirus transmission. Being honest could help medical workers to understand the real conditions in the field. So the information can reveal the possibility of others getting infected with the virus. Sometimes people don't want to be in trouble, or feel like they're getting somebody else in trouble, because they know they're going to be asked to stay at home to isolate or quarantine for 10-14 days.

Contact tracing investigation really has no choice but to rely on honesty from those being questioned, and it's a big reason why it could fail miserably. There is no shame in being honest to protect those you come into contact with, especially close friends and family members. It still comes down to the individuals to follow isolation, or quarantine orders and stay at home and not expose other people. Essentially, for now, WE as a community are the vaccine against COVID-19. Contact tracing is a part of the immunization's mixture.

Here is a quick overview of the COVID-19 statistics on a national, state, and local level:

As of this date – December 2 2020

The United States now has approximately 13.63million confirmed positive cases with 178,395 new cases and over 269,763deaths reported.

Over 340,979 confirmed positive cases now exist in Arizona. Of those, close to 8,323 are in Navajo County alone.

The Hopi Health Care Center has tested over 5,922 patients to this date. Over 633 of those tests at Hopi Health Care Center came back positive with 423 from Hopi Tribal members. Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation reported 91 positives for Hopi Villages with a combined number of 507 positive Hopi Tribal members.

The information below provides a glimpse of the current numbers in those respective villages.

**Hopi COVID-19 Reported Cases by Hopi Health Care Center Cases*
December 2, 2020**

	Number Tested Today	Cumulative Number Positive	Cumulative Number Negative	Total Number in Process	Total Tested
	34	633	5,188	74	5,928

Note: These data include newly added testing results from the Abbott ID NOW machine since April 20, 2020.

Number of Cases per Village as of December 2, 2020	Reported by HHCC	Reported by Tuba City Regional Healthcare Corporation	Total
Kiqōtsmovi	27	6	33
Orayvi	9		9
Polacca (Walpi-Sitsom'ovi-Tewa)	179	6	185+
Musanguuvi	14		14
Supawlavi	18		18+
Sōngoopavi	123		123+
Yuwelu-paki	6		6
Paaqavi	4		4
Hotvela	21	10	31(+)
Keams Canyon	16	6	22
Munqapi		63*	63*
Phoenix	1		1
Winslow	4		4
Prescott	1		1
TOTAL	423	91	514

* 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.

** A total of 514+ 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.

AZ Democrat Mark Kelly sworn into US Senate by VP Pence



AP—Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., with his wife former Rep. Gabby Giffords, D-Ariz., participated in a re-enactment of his swearing-in Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, by Vice President Mike Pence in the Old Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press - - Arizona Democrat and former astronaut Mark Kelly was sworn into the Senate on Wednesday, by Vice President Mike Pence.

Kelly, 56, defeated GOP Sen. Martha McSally in last month's election, making her one of only three incumbents to lose.

In an interview, Kelly praised the late Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a political maverick whose seat he now holds and whose grave he visited Tuesday at the U.S. Naval Academy in nearby Annapolis, Maryland.

He also voiced support for a push by bipartisan congressional moderates to pass a COVID-19 relief bill before Congress adjourns for the year. "I think some-

thing should happen now," he said.

Kelly was sworn into office by Vice President Mike Pence, and both men wore masks and bumped arms in congratulations when the oath was over.

Kelly's Senate arrival marks a political milestone for Arizona, which has two Democratic senators for the first time since January 1953.

In other evidence of Arizona's political shift, the state backed President-elect Joe Biden last month the first time a Democratic presidential candidate carried it since 1996.

McSally was appointed to her seat in 2019 to replace McCain. Her appointment lasted only until last month's spe-

cial election was officially certified, which occurred this week. That cleared the way for Kelly to take office and fill the rest of McCain's six-year term, meaning Kelly will face reelection in 2022.

The son of two police officers, Kelly is a retired astronaut who flew four space missions, including time aboard the International Space Station. He was also a Navy pilot who flew combat missions during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

Giffords was wounded in a 2011 mass shooting in which six people were killed and a dozen others hurt. She and Kelly became leading figures in unsuccessful efforts to pressure Congress to strengthen gun controls.

Arizona confirms Joe Biden as winner in State

According to the official results certified by Secretary of State Katie Hobbs on November 30, Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump by 10,457 votes in Arizona.

The process was overseen by AZ Governor Doug Ducey, Attorney General Mark Brnovich and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel.

As Governor Ducey was certifying the election results, his cell phone rang playing the tune of 'Hail to the Chief.' Ducey pulled his phone out of his pocket and silenced it and continued signing the election certification results. Ducey later said it was President Trump on the phone.

Ducey continues to defend the integrity of Arizona's voting by mail and other laws in place to prevent voter fraud and said he is required by law to certify the election results.

In a tweet, Ducey wrote: "The problems that exist in other states simply don't apply here. Here's what the law says. It requires the Secretary of State, in the presence of the Governor and the Attorney General, to canvass the election on the fourth Monday following the general election. That was today. This can ONLY be delayed if counties DECLINE to certify their results. ALL 15 counties in Arizona-counties run by both parties- certified their results. The canvass of the election triggers a 5-day window for any elector to bring a credible challenge to the election results in court. If you

want to contest the results, now is the time. Bring your challenges. That's the law. I've sworn an oath to uphold it, and I take my responsibility seriously. I've said all along, I'm going to follow the law."

The certification confirms that Biden won the state and now the electors will cast Arizona's 11 Electoral College votes on December 14.

"This election was conducted with transparency, accuracy and fairness in accordance with Arizona's laws and elections procedures, despite numerous unfounded claims to the contrary," Hobbs said before certifying the results.

Arizona also certified the victory of Democrat Mark Kelly over Republican U.S. Senator Martha McSally. Kelly was sworn into the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, Dec. 2 by Vice President Mike Pence. He will serve in the U.S. Senate alongside Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz. In 2018, she became the first Democrat in three decades to win a Senate seat in Arizona.

The U.S. General Services Administration has acknowledged Biden as the winner of the Presidential Election and the president has called on his agencies to cooperate. This will start a formal transition process, and gives the Biden-Harris team access to top security, communications, officials, briefings and other government resources, including funding.

First Mesa Consolidated Villages Hours of Operation and limited Business Services

Due to the sharp increase in Covid-19 cases, the FMCV Admin Office is open for Business by Telephone only at 928-737-2670, Monday—Friday, 9am-4pm (closed 12-1).

Water payments may be made by telephone via Debit/Credit Card, during hours above.

Money order payments may also be mailed to:
FMCV PO Box 260 Polacca, AZ 86042

Business Services and Staff hours are limited.
No copy service and No fax service.

Water Operations will not be doing any porta-pumping and No Portas available for rent.

For information call the office Monday-Friday between the hours of: 9am—12n and 1pm-4pm.

First Mesa Consolidated Villages

Visit us online at:

www.firstmesaconsolidatedvillages.com

Contact us by Telephone: 928-737-2670

By Mail: PO Box 260, Polacca, AZ 86042

Tips to Keep Pipes from Freezing

From the FMCV Water Department

Cold temperatures can cause water pipes to freeze. Freezing in a pipe creates a lot of pressure inside the pipe and can cause the pipe to burst and likely lead to serious flooding, especially when there's no one around to turn off the water.

ALLOW THE FAUCET TO DRIP

If you are afraid a pipe will freeze, you can open the faucet just enough so the faucet drips slightly. Allowing the faucet to be open like this relieves pressure in the system. If a pipe freezes, it is actually the pressure that is created between the blockage and the faucet that will cause the pipe to burst. Allowing the faucet to be open will prevent this pressure from building up and keep the pipe from bursting. If the faucet is served by both hot and cold water pipes, open both faucet taps slightly, or set a single-handle faucet (such as a kitchen faucet) to warm.

APPLY HEATING TAPE

Heating tape works like an electric blanket for pipes, supplying heat directly to the pipe to keep it warm during cold spells. This can be a good solution for short sections of pipe that are at high risk for freezing and are easily accessible so you can install the tape and can monitor it for problems.

There are two types of heating tape. One type turns on and off by itself when it senses heat is needed. The other type must be plugged in when heat is needed and unplugged when not in use; it does not have an automatic or manual on/off switch. Much like a space heater, these products can be dangerous, so you must follow the product's direction and safety procedures exactly.

ADD EXTRA INSULATION

Pipes that are located in areas that do not have proper insulation, may need extra insulation to keep from freezing. Pipes in basements are not the only ones that may not be properly insulated from the cold. If you have had a problem with pipes freezing anywhere in your home, extra insulation could be the cure.

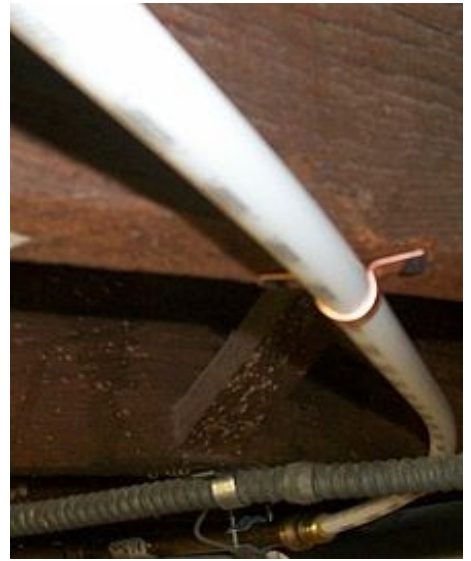
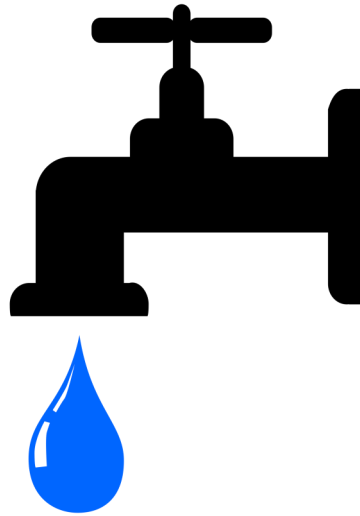
Pipes can be fitted with foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves to help decrease the chances of freezing. This can be an easy solution for pipes that are exposed but can get expensive if walls, floors, or ceilings have to be opened in order to properly insulate the pipe. Additional insulation can also be added to walls and ceilings to keep the pipes warm.

Insulation can help keep a pipe closer to the temperature of the water inside the pipe, but it does not add heat to the pipe and will not prevent freezing if the pipe is exposed to prolonged freezing temperatures.

NOTICE

Water Operations will continue to be a priority; however, due to limited staff during this time, the FMCV Water Department will not be doing any porta-pumping. No Portas are available for rent at this time.

FMCV Water Department



Navajo Nation extends Emergency Order and extends lockdowns

The Navajo Nation has extended its public health emergency order mandating that residents shelter in place for at least the next three weeks through DEC 28.

The order mandates that Navajo residents are required to stay home and not gather with anyone outside their immediate household.

57 hour weekend lockdowns begins Friday 8pm - 5am Monday. Travel is limited to emergency and essential personnel only. Must have identification showing credentials.

LDS Missionaries provide Free Labor

Local LDS Missionaries provide free community service (cut, chop wood, yard work and general labor around the house). They can provide their own tools.

Call Elder Bracken, Elder Finlinson or Elder Crawford at (928) 421-9420 for assistance.

First Mesa Youth/Business Center

The First Mesa Youth Center/Business Center is open for Window Service Only, Monday-Friday, from 9am-2pm.

For information call FMYC at 928-737-2799 or email Cheyenne Walker at Cwalker@htha.org

Hart/Drye Ranch Wood Harvest Wildlife & Ecosystems Management Program

As we near the winter season, the Hopi Wildlife & Ecosystems Management Program (WEMP) has identified the need to continue and increase the opportunities to access the Hart/Drye Ranch, to harvest dead and down wood to heat their homes, during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Hopi WEMP implements the schedule below to allow our Hopi Tribal member's access to the Hart/Drye Ranch to obtain wood during the rest of the Fall/Winter 2020. Hopi Tribal members may make multiple trips during the four day event Hopi Hart/Drye Ranch Wood Harvest.

2020 Hart/Drye Wood Harvest Schedule:

Dates	Hours of Operation
December 11th to 14th.	8 am to 4 pm (Last vehicle check-in at 2 pm)

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. We will require individuals to wear a mask during the check-in and check-out process.

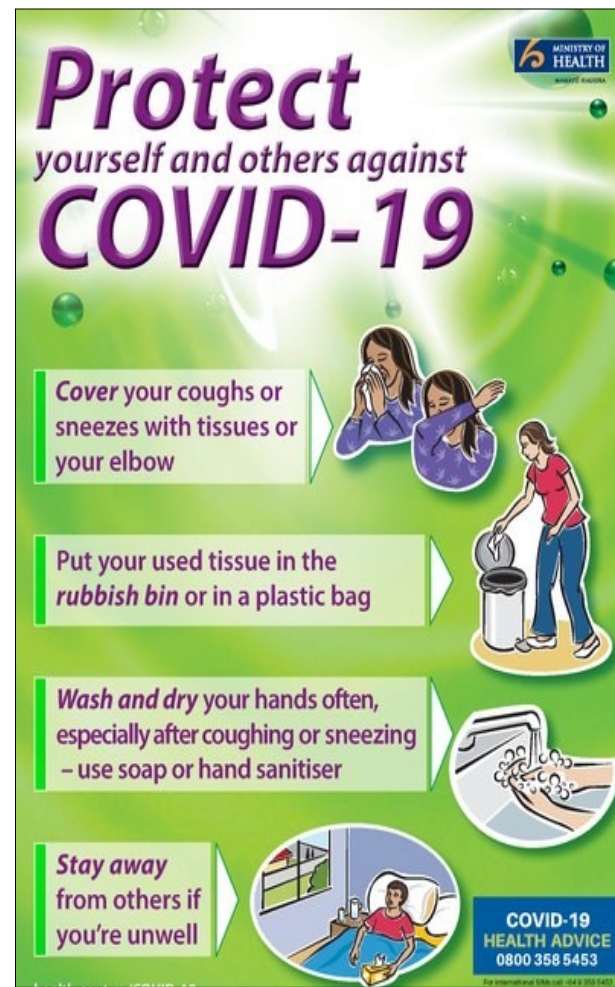
The scheduled dates will be open during times when no Arizona State General Hunts will occur to limit any potential conflicts. All Hart/Drye Ranch Wood Harvest will be scheduled in-between the 2020 AZGFD General Hunt dates.

Any questions, please feel free to call WEMP staff at (928) 497-1012 or (928) 497-1014.

CDC Adviser On COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Groups and Why Some Aren't Eager To Be First



Chandan Khanna/AFP via Getty Images



December 2, 2020
By Center for Disease Control (CDC)

For those fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, and those hit hardest by it, a vaccine could be just weeks away, as the Food and Drug Administration weighs emergency approval for two vaccines.

On Tuesday, a *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory panel recommended that the first vaccines should go to health care workers and residents and staff of long-term care facilities.*

The companies behind the two vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, say their vaccines have been shown to be 95% and 94% effective, respectively. But some people who could be at the front of the line aren't eager to go first, says Dr. Robert Atmar, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and a member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that made the recommendations.

"We're hearing a lot of hesitation among health care personnel, and I think a lot of it has to do with the politicized nature of the vaccine development and the whole response to the pandemic," says Atmar, who also works in the Harris County hospital system in Texas.

"We're beginning to roll out education to our staff to explain exactly what the process has been and to reassure that there weren't any steps that were skipped" in the compressed testing and approval timeline, he tells All Things Considered.

"But because of the severity of the pandemic — one person a minute dying in the United States each day — it really is important to try and take steps that will be effective in preventing disease."

In excerpts from his interview, Atmar discusses hesitancy among front line medical workers and the decision to include the elderly in the first priority groups.

Let's start with the recommendations. It makes sense that health care workers should get first access. Do you have any concerns about that second group of elderly, possibly sick, people getting it? I'm wondering if there's enough data to show that it (a) works and (b) will be safe in that population?

I think that was the main concern that the ACIP considered. ... The problem is that this is a group that has not specifically been studied in the clinical trials that have been done to date. And we know from flu vaccine studies that residents in long-term care facilities tend to respond less well to the vaccine than other individuals. So there is some concern that it may not work, but it's reasonable to think that there will be at least some protection, and the burden of disease, and particularly that 40% of deaths in the U.S. have occurred in long-

term care facilities, really argues that if there's any way we can protect them, to try and do so.

Do you still have outstanding questions about either of the leading vaccine candidates that you would want answers to before vaccinating your colleagues?

I will want to review the data, and particularly the safety data. We know that individuals will have some side effects. I think knowing exactly what the reactions are to be expected will reassure individuals who are going to receive the vaccine.

If you are hearing hesitation from health care workers, from front line people, how do you expect to persuade the rest of Texas, the wider population?

Many of the health care workers I've spoken to, who have expressed concern to me, don't necessarily want to be in the first group — even though they're prioritized for the first group — but want to see for themselves how their friends and colleagues respond to the vaccine. I understand that's human nature, but I certainly plan on being a model — if either vaccine becomes available and is recommended by the ACIP — to demonstrate my confidence in the vaccine and

