



In Honor of Chief Simon

In honor of Chief Simon's birthday, which is celebrated on May 18, PTT has taken the liberty of reprinting an article on him as found in the June 1, 2004 issue.

Fortunately, Simon Kahquados was a man who was eager to communicate with scholars and other interesting people. Therefore, it is possible to find information on him, and also on the culture and history of the Forest County Potawatomi. In many letters Simon wrote to his white friends, he talked about different subjects such as ancestry, culture, language, history, and additionally, the sad living conditions of the Potawatomi at that time. Literally, Simon was the spokesman for the Forest County Potawatomi, or as we would say today, a public relations manager. Simon Onanguisse Kahquados was born May 18, 1851, at the Potawatomi village, Black Earth, located in southern Kewaunee County. His father was Nen Gah Sum, the "Shimmering Light".

Simon was only five years old when



his father died at the age of 30 at the Potawatomi village at Whitefish Bay, Door County, Wis., in 1856. As a little boy, Simon was raised by his grandfather, Keetoos, "Day Walking". Old Quito was the leader and the speaker at Black Earth [Ma-ka-ta-we-ga-me-cok], the last Potawatomi village in the Kewaunee-Manitowoc area. In 1862, over 1,000 Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa finally left this large village and split up into small groups.

Simon always admired his grandfather's peaceful attitude towards the white people: "Those that do not listen, will die; do not quarrel or scold one another, we must not hate each other, we must love all the world." It was probably because of the influence of his grandfather's teachings that Simon Kahquados kept good relations with his white friends all over Wisconsin.

At the age of 13 [about 1864], Simon's band moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. At Cedar River, Menominee County, Mich., he hunted deer and trapped beavers, minks, martens, otters, and fishers. A few years later [1870], his family bought a homestead near Bark River, Delta County, Mich. About the following years let us quote Simon: "We take up public government homestead lands, we are about 30 families together Wis - Pottawatomie Indians reside also on private lands have log houses and a Methodist Church and school, the lands are cultivated by them. I was to live to Hannahville, Methodist Indian Mission over 20 years. "I was in cruising Mich. 30 years [timber cruiser]. "Everybody know those Big Lumber Co. to Mich and Wis - my occupation cruiser "...P.S. also I never went no school of my life I have no education. Simon Kahquados."

Simon's first appearance on a government record is in 1907, when the U.S. enrollment agent Wooster came from Washington, D.C., with the order to enroll all the "Wisconsin Potawatomi". This

enrollment effected all Potawatomi in the United States and Canada who, until this time, hadn't received any annuity money or financial aid by the U.S. Government because they had not migrated west of the Mississippi. On the "Wooster Roll" Simon Kahquados is mentioned as a single person, 58 years of age. His Potawatomi name was Kakanassiga. At that time Simon lived near Hannahville, at Bark River, Mich. At the time when the reservation for the Forest County Potawatomi was established (1913), Simon

probably moved into Marinette County and settled somewhere in the area nearby Athelstane. There, at the headwaters of the Peshtigo River, a small band of Potawatomi settled for a while on homesteads. Apparently, Simon Kahquados belonged to the "Wausaukee/White Rapids Band of Wisconsin Potawatomi". Most of his letters to Brown and others were sent from Camp 8, or Bird Center, Wausaukee. Both Bird Center and Camp 8 belonged to the J.W. Wells Lumber Company, where Simon worked as a timber cruiser for a long time. Eventually, Simon moved in his later years over to Blackwell, Forest County, where he stayed at a friend's house. There he died on November 1930.

To improve the very bad conditions of the Forest County Potawatomi, Simon, along with chief James Waumegesako and delegate John Thunder, traveled several times to Washington and tried to talk to the president of the United States. He also wrote several letters to his white friends in Madison, Kewaunee, Cato, Manitowoc and Sheboygan asking them sometimes for some money or even clothes. To get the support of his white friends in his struggle for the Potawatomi, Simon often traveled down to Madison on different occasions. Because of his multiple appearances on public occasions [like state fairs] where Simon held many speeches, more and more white people regarded him as the

"Chief / Last Chief / Last Hereditary Chief of the Potawatomi." In fact, Simon Kahquados was an important leader of the Forest County Potawatomi. He was its speaker.



"Last Chief of Potawatomis Dies in Rags" - This is the headline of a Wisconsin newspaper article on Simon Kahquados' death on Nov. 27, 1930. Simon died at the age of 79 in the house of William Towa, 15 miles from Wabeno. He had been poor and sick for a long time. Some white people who knew Simon quite well said of him that

he had been an intelligent person, knew the English language well, and that he always had been proud of his ancestry. He attended fall harvest festivals and July 4th celebrations, always wearing his full regalia.

Simon Kahquados had claimed that he was a descendant of the famous Potawatomi chief Onanguisse, "The Shimmering Light of the Sun", who in the year of 1679, had saved the French explorer Robert Sieur La Salle at Rock Island from starvation. Onanguisse was an Okama of the Thunder clan.

Simon Kahquados' last wish had been that he wanted to be buried near the gravesite of his great-grandfather, Onanguisse, near Ephraim, Door County.

Simon Kahquados was buried in the State Park near Ephraim, Door County, on May 30, 1931. The burial service was held by Rev. O. H. Strauch, and chief James Wampum Waumegesako.

Several members of the Forest County Potawatomi held a ceremonial dance. Over 15,000 white visitors also attended the burial of "the last important Chieftain of the Wisconsin Potawatomis".

"...Now if any of you desire to call upon me here, you should write in advance, so that I can fix a time when you would be sure to find me at home, with kind regards, I remain very truly yours Simon Kahquados and Quito Ketoos, poor Indian."

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To the Forest County Potawatomi Community

From Chairman Daniels as prepared for the May 13, 2020 Facebook Live Presentation

Good morning.

Thank you all for tuning in to watch this week's Facebook update. And thank you all for the precautions you are taking to limit the spread of this virus in Forest County.

Last week we told you that Forest County had its first confirmed case of COVID-19. As more testing was done over the last week, several additional cases have been confirmed by the Forest County Health Department. As of today, there are five positive cases of COVID-19 in Forest County.

The tribe is continuing to take all the necessary steps and precautions to protect the community from this virus. This includes increasing our capacity to provide tests. If you have been experiencing any minor COVID symptoms, please contact a nurse at the Health & Wellness Center (HWC) to determine if you should get tested. HWC staff will provide details on this later in the update, but please don't hesitate to contact them directly if you have any questions or concerns.

As this situation continues to evolve, our staff is making the necessary changes and adjustments to make things a little easier for you. So, both the Carter and Stone Lake C-Stores are now offering curbside pick-up service of all products except cigarettes and tobacco. This service is available Monday - Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. To take advantage of this service, customers may place and pay for orders over the phone during these hours. For Stone Lake C-Store orders, call (715) 478-4199. For Carter C-Store orders, call (715) 473-5100. And beginning today, both C-Stores will have expanded hours. Stores will be open daily to serve your needs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Kitchen will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It's also important that we talk about the positive things happening in our community during this time, so I'm happy to report that several of our much needed (and much anticipated) Capital Projects are continuing to move forward as scheduled.

The new Carter C-store is nearing completion. Contractors are setting up shelving in the interior of the store, touching up paint, completing finishing touches and working on a small punch list of items. On the exterior of the site, fuel canopies and dispensers are being installed. In addition, storm water management measures are being put in place and grading of the site is underway in preparation of asphalt. Weather permitting, the paving is scheduled to begin within a few weeks. The construction of the store is anticipated for completion by mid-June.

Construction of the Community Center is really moving along. Structural steel has been erected and the roof has been installed over the gym. Contractors are busy roughing in electrical, plumbing and heating and cooling units. In this area, walls have been framed and dry wall installation has begun. Block work for the locker rooms, fab lab and wood shop are complete. They are beginning to work their way around the building erecting structural steel over the pool and fieldhouse areas. Looking at the site, you can really begin to see the footprint of the building and the feather patterned exterior walls taking shape.

In addition, we are seeking FCP community members who are interested in serving on an Art Advisory Board for the Community Center. The board will meet and help to identify what artwork should be included throughout the building and shape ideas for a hands-on community art project. If you have ideas or are interested in being part of the Art Advisory Board, please contact Jay Martinez, Community Center Director, at Jason.Martinez@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov or (715) 889-0548.

Thank you for all that you are doing to keep this community safe. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the Executive Council.

Migwetch

From Emergency Management Program Manager Bobbie Irocky as prepared for the May 13, 2020 Facebook Live Presentation

Hello FCP Community.

The Incident Command System is at a Level 1 of a virtual Full-Scale Activation.

I cannot stress the importance of the Safer at Home Order at this time. Our county has had an increase in confirmed COVID cases in the past week. We need to be very safe and sensible with our actions. We have a lot of people from out of town visiting our community and they will continue to do so in weeks to come. We need to be cautious when taking part in our essential outings. Please make sure you are always wearing a mask and gloves when out in the community. Practice physical distancing when necessary. Frequently wash your hands with soap and water, and by all means, please avoid large gatherings and crowds. As a community, you still need to do your part so we can make sure this virus does not spiral out of control in our county.

The FCP tribe has many resources for the tribal community and we want you to know you are not alone! If at any time you have a concern, please feel free to reach out to Emergency Management at (715) 478-4428.

Thank you all and please be safe.

From Family Services Division Administrator Abbey Lukowski as prepared for the May 13, 2020 Facebook Live Presentation

Good morning, Forest County Potawatomi Community.

It's a pleasure to share time with you via broadcast number nine. Thank you for continuing to inspire the Family Services Division staff with your positive words as they serve you 365/7/24.

We recognize respecting the Safer at Home Order for your loved ones, your little ones and your elders continues to offer its challenges. We're grateful for your graceful service to your family members and friends.

This week, we embraced the 'we' helping one another and sharing what we could. The Bodwéwadmí Ktëgan Farm graciously contributed care packages this week for our placements and elders. Staff enjoyed practicing social distancing and seeing your smiling faces. The fact remains the same: We miss you. We miss seeing your smiling faces. We miss conversing with you. We will continue to be present to assist you where we are able.

Please call. Please text. Please email. Please leave a message with a working phone number so we may return your call.

As reminded last week, financial hardship may find itself at your family's door in the coming weeks. We'd like to direct you to www.fcpotawatomi.com to find applications for assisting in your needs.

Where applicable and eligible, consider the application of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); consider requesting Child Support review hearings; and/or consider application for becoming a licensed foster home. Again, all of these forms may be found at www.fcpotawatomi.com.

The Family Services and Education Divisions continue to offer meals for school-aged members. You may pick up daily at the Recreation Building – this also gives you the opportunity to pick up fun activities as supplied by the Community Advocacy department.

For members who fill out our COVID-19 form, also found at www.fcpotawatomi.com, they will be mailed an American Express gift card. Simply complete the form and return it via mail or email to CommunityAdvocate@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov. This incentive should be used for purchase of essential items.

We recognize that in isolated moments, domestic violence, sexual assault, exploitation, child abuse and neglect, etc. may arise. We are available and will respond to emergencies and safety concerns accordingly.

We also recognize these times may

bring moments of uneasiness, uncertainty, etc. Please remember you are NOT alone. You are NEVER alone. Please call 211 for immediate resources throughout the state of Wisconsin. If you're feeling suicidal, please know you're just a phone call away from help: 1-800-SUICIDE or 1-800-273-TALK. Or call a friend or family member and ask for help.

We look forward to serving you this week and to hearing about all the great things you are doing. Important phone numbers are listed on Facebook and appear below. Stay healthy and stay safe!

- Family Services: (715) 478-4433
- ICW: (715) 889-1446
- Com. Advocacy: (715) 478-7201
- Child Support: (715) 478-7260

From Public Health Officer Elena Cox as prepared for the May 13, 2020 Facebook Live Presentation

There are now five confirmed cases of COVID in Forest County. The County Health Department will keep us updated as they work through their investigation. *See further statistics on pg. 3.*

Please stay diligent in following the recommendations for social distancing and good personal hygiene such as frequent hand washing. It is your best defense for not contacting COVID-19.

The COVID-19 virus is going to be with us for some time. We will have to slowly open up stores, restaurants, and seeing our family and friends under a new normal. This virus is highly contagious and the risk of contacting it will be ever present. Your best protection is still to stay home and limit contact with others. This is not easy! Social isolation can lead to anxiety, depression, and may lead to unhealthy behaviors such as drinking, substance abuse, and tensions with others you are living with. Here are some tips on healthy behaviors:

- Stay connected and maintain your social networks.
- Try to keep your personal daily routines or create new routines if circumstances change.
- Stay connected via phone, e-mail, social media, or video conferencing. Many smart phones are able to have "face time" so you can see each other as you chat.
- During times of stress, pay attention to your own needs and feelings.
- Engage in healthy activities that you enjoy and find relaxing. Spring (we hope!) is finally here. Spend time gardening, taking walks, or sitting outside enjoying the beauty of nature.
- Exercise regularly, keep regular sleep routines, and eat healthy food.

continued on pg. 3...

Walker Peter Thunder Jr.

Walker Peter Thunder Jr., 73, of Wabeno, Wis., passed away Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at his home. Walker was born October 8, 1946, in Keshe-na, Wis., the son of Walker Thunder Sr. and Ethel Wood. Walker served in the U.S. Marines.

Surviving are his daughter: Anjanette Thunder Allard, St. Augustine; sons: Kevin Thunder, Weyauwega, Matthew Thunder, Weyauwega, Pete Thunder, Chicago; two grandchildren, sister: Twila (Clayton) Neconish, Green Bay; brothers: Gary (Gerine) Thunder, Warren (Sue) Thunder, Zoar.

Visitation was held Saturday, May 2, 2020, at Weber-Hill Funeral Home, Crandon, Wis., with Military Honors. Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.weberhillfuneralhome.com.



To the Forest County Potawatomi Community

...continued from pg. 2

- Keep things in perspective. Public health agencies and experts are working to make sure health care is there for those affected.

- A near-constant stream of new reports about the outbreak can cause anyone to feel anxious or distressed. Limit your time checking on updates.

- Avoid listening to or following rumors that make you feel uncomfortable.

- Seek informational updates and practical guidance at specific times during the day from trusted websites such as the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid/

help.htm. Updates are available by early afternoon each day.

This is a challenge unlike anything we have ever experienced. Our best defense against contacting COVID-19 is still staying home, limiting outside trips for necessities, and maintaining social distancing when around other people. Practice healthy behaviors, stay connected with others, and seek reliable information during these challenging times. Ask for help if you need to talk to someone. It's okay to feel lonely and depressed at times, but you are not alone. We are here to help you. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Results	Last Week 5/6/20	Total 5/13/20
Negative Tests	87,826	112,748
Positive Tests	8,901	10,611
Hospitalizations	1,694 (19%)	1,877 (18%)
Deaths	362	418



POTAWATOMI TRAVELING TIMES

100 N. Prospect Avenue • PO Box 340 • 8, WI 54520
 phone: (715) 478-7437 • fax: (715) 478-7438
 email: times@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov • website: www.fcpotawatomi.com

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NOMINATION MEETING
 FOR
TRIBAL CHIEF JUDGE
 Monday
August 24, 2020 7:00 P.M.
 Tribal Executive Building Auditorium
 5416 Everybody's Road | Crandon, WI 54520
 FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
 Keeper of the Fire

PRIMARY JUDICIAL ELECTION
 FOR
TRIBAL CHIEF JUDGE
 Saturday
Sept. 12, 2020 8:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
 Tribal Executive Building Auditorium
 5416 Everybody's Road | Crandon, WI 54520
 FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
 Keeper of the Fire

GENERAL JUDICIAL ELECTION
 FOR
TRIBAL CHIEF JUDGE
 Saturday
Sept. 26, 2020 8:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
 Tribal Executive Building Auditorium
 5416 Everybody's Road | Crandon, WI 54520
 FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
 Keeper of the Fire

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
 PUBLIC WORKS
 DIVISION
 PO Box 340
 Crandon, WI 54520

Updated Public Works Contacts during COVID-19!

All Tribal Member Rentals, On Reservation Homes, and Government Facilities:
 Jeff Thorpe: 715-889-2136

Drinking Water and Wastewater Issues:
 Operator on Call: 715-889-9345

General Housing or Rental Related Questions:
 Nate Guldani: 715-889-1796
 Allison Daniels: 715-889-3149

Solid Waste:
 Tony Daniels: 715-889-6028

Roads:
 Todd Mulvey: 715-902-0201

Transit (Medical Transports Only):
 Wade Deverney: 715-478-4940 or 715-889-0087

Tribal Members Compete in Virtual Powwow

Two FCP tribal members - Darlaina and Brevin Boyd - recently took part in a virtual powwow contest through the Facebook page, Social Distance Powwow. Brevin finished in the money placing 8th. Darlaina brought home a consolation prize. Congratulations!

As stated on Social Distance Powwow's page, "This group is an online powwow! Let's Powwow everybody Powwow! Many vendors, dancers, singers have been horribly affected by this virus shutdown. This forum is for all to share

their creator-given talents and be supported. Let's all spread love and positivity!!! We may do an arranged Powwow once a month with grand entry times and everyone going live tagging Social Distance Powwow vendors and all!!"

How times have changed! On the plus side, this shows just how important dancing and singing is to Native culture. And where there's a will, there is a way. And that way attracted people from all across North America! How cool is that?



Darlaina Boyd ▸ Quarantine Dance Specials 2020
April 30 at 8:07 PM · Crandon

Bozho friends and family,

My name is Biwashikwé, my english name is Darlaina Boyd. I am Potawatomi and Oglala Lakota. I grew up here on the Forest County Potawatomi Reservation my entire life. I am a freshman currently at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, working toward my degree in the college of letters and science with the major in global studies and business.

The location where I am dancing at has a very special place in my heart. I was told to give back to my community and to listen closely to our elders, that someday it will be our generation who will be leading. This is who I dance for, my community and my Elders.

It has been almost a year since I have been able to dance due to graduation, work, college, life, etc.. and for this I am very grateful and would like to extend a tth migwetth to Thrive Unltd and My Sisters are Warriors Initiative for sponsoring this special.

Ahaw ❤️

#mysistersarewarriors



Brevin Boyd Sr. ▸ Quarantine Dance Specials 2020
May 8 at 6:04 PM

Boozho my names Brevin Boyd I grew up in Stone Lake, Wisconsin. I want to say thank you to the Peltier family for giving me the opportunity for participating in this sweet men's traditional special. 🙏 #sneakupmens



Job Opportunities

The FCP Community Center will provide new and exciting opportunities for employment in the following areas:



Adventures/Outdoors

- Adventures & Experimental Coordinator
- Adventures & Experimental Specialist

Aquatics

- Aquatics Manager
- Aquatics Supervisor
- Head Lifeguard
- Lifeguard
- Swim Instructor

Daycare

- Daycare Supervisor
- Daycare Teachers

Food Service

- Kitchen Supervisor
- Cooks
- Food Workers

Special Events

- Special/Sporting Events Coordinator

Office

- Office Manager
- Office Assistant

Health & Fitness

- Health & Fitness Manager
- Fitness Supervisor
- Fitness Trainer
- Health & Wellness Coach
- Martial Arts Coordinator

Maintenance

- Maintenance Manager
- Pool Technician
- Pool Worker
- Maintenance Worker
- Housekeeping/Custodial

Recreation

- Recreation Manager
- Recreation Supervisor
- Recreation Specialist

If you are interested in learning more or have questions about any of these upcoming job opportunities, please contact:

Cate Wylie, Human Resources

catherine.wylie@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov or (715) 889-3347

Jay Martinez, Community Center Director

jason.martinez@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov or (715) 889-0548



• ART • ADVISORY • BOARD •



Seeking FCP Community Members who are interested in serving on an Art Advisory Board for the Community Center.

The board will meet and help to identify what artwork should be included throughout the building and shape ideas for a hands-on community art project.

If you have ideas or are interested in being part of the Art Advisory Board, please contact Jay Martinez, Community Center Director: Jason.Martinez@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov or (715) 889-0548.





8201 Mish ko swen Drive, Crandon, WI 54520
 Mon. - Fri. | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Open to the Public
www.FCPotawatomi.com

**Honoring Health,
 Healing, and Tradition**

Do you need to schedule an appointment with our medical providers? We now offer virtual visits, which allow you to maintain primary care by connecting with your provider via phone, computer or tablet. Please call (715) 478-4339 to see if these visits are an option for you.

We continue to offer curbside COVID-19 testing for our patients. Please call (715) 478-4339 to speak with a nurse.

Please note that all appointments, including essential lab or imaging will require a scheduled appointment.

As the Health & Wellness Center begins to see patients for some types of care that have been postponed, know that we are taking every precaution to keep you safe if your visit requires you to come to the clinic.



Pharmacy Curbside Pickup

To help expedite the curbside pickup process, please consider the following:

Calling ahead for prescription refills at 715-478-4347.

- When calling in refills, notify pharmacy staff if you would like 90 day supply.
- Give credit, debit, or benny card information when calling for refills; this is the preferred method of payment to help reduce points of contact. If you have to pay with cash or check, please notify pharmacy staff.

Arriving at the clinic for curbside pickup:

- HWC has designated areas in the front of the building for curbside pickup.
- Please call 715-478-4347 when you have arrived at our facility & notify pharmacy staff who you are picking up for and what type of vehicle you are in.
- Remain in your vehicle and your prescription will be brought out to you.

Pharmacy has text messaging to notify patients when their prescriptions are ready. Please call the pharmacy if you do not receive texts from the pharmacy.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this pandemic.

HWC Pharmacy Staff

FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION CONTACT NUMBERS

Indian Child Welfare
 Main Line: (715)-478-4812
 24 Hour Emergency Hotline: (715) 889-1446

Economic Support
 (715) 478-7206

Community Advocacy
 24 Hour Emergency Hotline: (715) 478-7201

Child Support
 (715) 478-7260

Family Services
 Main Line: (715) 478-4433

If you don't get an answer on one of the these phone numbers, please leave a voicemail and your call will be returned shortly.

For additional information including applications and forms for each of our departments, please go to FCP's website at FCPotawatomi.com.

FCP Behavioral Health is hosting



Open to Everyone
Monday through Friday
2-4 pm & 7-9 pm



FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
 HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER
 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

To register, please contact:
 Ed: 715-889-2884
 Kyle: 715-889-0146
 Angela: 715-889-9373

SPRING CLEANING 2020

Beginning: Wednesday, April 1
Ending: Monday, June 1

Dumpsters will be located at:

- !!→Chief Wabeka (Blackwell)**
- !!→Old Forestry Co-op Building (Carter)**
- !!→Old Tribal Hall and Solid Waste (Stone Lake)**

Items to be placed alongside of Dumpsters:

- Tires
- Lawn Mowers or Weed Eaters
- Electronic Devices Including: Radios, DVD Players, Computers, Computer Monitors, Satellite Receivers
- Old Appliances Including: Microwaves, TVS, Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Ovens, Washers, Dryers, Electronic Waste
- Automotive Parts Including: Car Batteries
- Used Oil or Paint
- Any Kind of Metal

Items allowed IN Clean-Up Dumpsters:

- Old Household Items: Furniture, Toys, Carpet, Mattresses, Clothing, etc.

Items NOT Allowed:

- No Yard Waste
- No Animal Carcasses
- No Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- No Medical Waste

Additional COVID-19 Relief for Indian Health Facilities Pushed

submitted by the Office of Tom Udall

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 8, 2020) – U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.), vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, along with U.S. Senators Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), joined 10 of their colleagues in sending a letter to Senate leadership urging additional funding for Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Health Organizations (I/T/U) to recover from significant COVID-19 related losses in revenue.

“I/T/U facilities provide critical access to health care for 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) across the United States,” the lawmakers wrote. “These facilities serve not only some of the most remote communities in the country but also patient populations that face comparatively higher rates of underlying health issues that make them highly susceptible to COVID-19, including hypertension, asthma, cancer, and heart and cardiovascular disease. As such, I/T/U facilities are vital for ensuring Native communities are not disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.”

“Without funding to address these operations funding shortfalls, tribal and urban Indian health care facilities may be in danger of closing, and the health disparities that already exist in Indian Country will become further exacerbated. Failure to secure the necessary funds and resources to provide COVID-19 related care is putting these communities at risk,” the lawmakers continued.

“In order to ensure the sustainability and operational health of I/T/U sites around the country, we urge you to include a significant appropriation specifically dedicated to supporting I/T/U health care facilities. This will ensure that funding is provided in a way that more closely meets the needs of all IHS assisted facilities,” the lawmakers concluded.

In March, Udall fought to include over \$1 billion in dedicated COVID-19 health care funding for Indian Country in the CARES Act.

Last month, Udall and Senate Democrats led efforts to include \$750 million for testing in tribal communities in the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act and secured a commitment from the White House to reserve a portion of the Provider Relief Fund for direct assistance to IHS facilities.

On April 22, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it would make a \$400 million targeted allocation to IHS facilities from the Provider Relief Fund. HHS indicated to tribal leaders and congressional staff that HHS would allow qualifying IHS facilities to apply for other targeted allo-

cations from the Provider Relief Fund, including an allocation for rural providers and another for COVID-19 high impact areas. However, HHS informed Congress and tribal leaders that they had altered the Department’s decision to allow IHS facilities to participate in the additional Provider Relief Fund targeted allocations – despite the fact that some IHS providers are located in remote areas and others, like those serving the Navajo Nation, are seeing one of the highest incidents rates of COVID-19 in the U.S.

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

As you continue to work on legislation to provide economic support and relief to Americans across the country, we urge you to include additional funding for Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Health Organizations (I/T/U) to recover from significant COVID-19 related losses in revenue.

I/T/U facilities provide critical access to health care for 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) across the United States. These facilities serve not only some of the most remote communities in the country but also patient populations that face comparatively higher rates of underlying health issues that make them highly susceptible to COVID-19, including hypertension, asthma, cancer, and heart and cardiovascular disease. As such, I/T/U facilities are vital for ensuring Native communities are not disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Congress has recognized the key role that IHS plays for AI/AN health and in our national COVID-19 response strategy in previous relief packages. The Families First Coronavirus Relief Act, the CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act all include specific provisions to target federal support to I/T/Us. These emergency resources for IHS have been integral. However, according to analysis by the Administration, the National Indian Health Board and the National Council of Urban Indian Health, this funding will be insufficient to address the need in Indian Country.

In particular, one issue that has continued to strain IHS resources is the lack of a clear and consistent access to provider revenue-loss relief resources for the I/T/U system. Third-party billing receipts are integral to the financial stability of the I/T/U system. While Congress has sought to increase appropriations for IHS each year, the current funding level is insufficient to cover the cost of all of the health care needs for American Indian and Alaska Native individuals. As a result, third-party reimbursements from private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and the Veterans Health Administration make up a significant portion of funding for tribal health care facilities.

In 2019, federally-operated IHS

facilities alone reported \$1.14 billion in third-party reimbursements, equaling roughly a fifth of the entire IHS budget for that year. For tribal health programs, third-party dollars can equate to over half of their operating budgets for healthcare. Third-party reimbursements for Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) now total more than the entire urban Indian health annual appropriation.

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, many I/T/U facilities have stopped conducting elective procedures and limited most non-COVID-19 related care. As a result, these facilities have experienced a drastic reduction in third-party reimbursements. These reimbursements are essential to allow programs to make payroll, expand services, and provide quality care to patients.

Without funding to address these operations funding shortfalls, tribal and urban Indian health care facilities may be in danger of closing, and the health disparities that already exist in Indian Country will become further exacerbated. Failure to secure the necessary funds and resources to provide COVID-19 related care is putting these communities at risk.

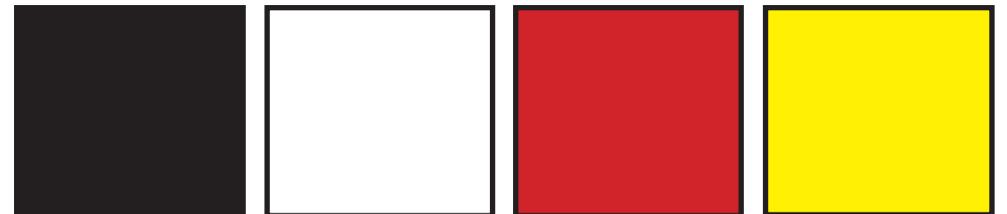
In order to ensure the sustainability and

operational health of I/T/U sites around the country, we urge you to include a significant appropriation specifically dedicated to supporting I/T/U health care facilities. This will ensure that funding is provided in a way that more closely meets the needs of all IHS assisted facilities.

We understand that a number of tribal leaders, urban Indian health program directors and Native organizations reached out to Congress to express their concerns on this issue, and others. They have been clear that American Indian and Alaska Native communities need targeted IHS resources for future COVID-19 related packages. We urge you to consider their requests as you work on the next COVID-19 package.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. As we continue to work on upcoming COVID-19 packages, additional funding for IHS and I/T/U sites to recover from significant COVID-19 related losses in revenue will be key to meeting the needs of our AI/AN communities.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to fulfill the trust and treaty responsibilities of the United States Government to provide for the health and well-being of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Indian Tribes.



C-STORE HOURS MODIFIED!

Beginning Wednesday, May 13, 2020, hours for both the Carter & Stone Lake C-Stores will be 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Coffee Shop will be ready to go at 8 a.m.

Hours for your Kitchen needs will be 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Curbside pick-up service for all products EXCEPT cigarettes and tobacco will remain the same: Monday thru Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers may place and pay for orders over the phone during those hours at:

- Stone Lake C-Store orders: 715-478-4199
- Carter C-Store orders: 715-473-5100

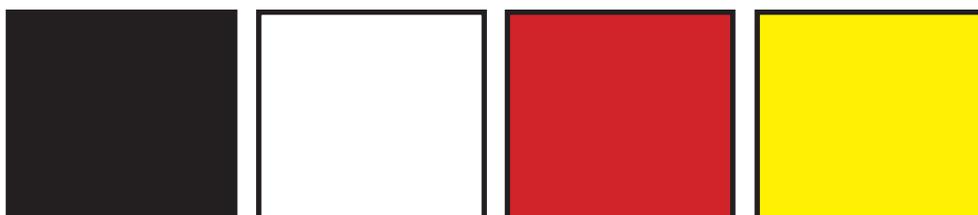
We thank you for your patience and continued support. Stay safe!



**FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
STONE LAKE/
CARTER C-STORE
SMOKE SHOP/DELI**



**5326 Firekeeper Rd., Crandon
Highway 32, Carter**



WDVA Continues to Limit Visitors to Wisconsin Veterans Homes

submitted by Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

In staying with the guidance of the CDC, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) will continue to limit all medically-unnecessary visits to members who reside at the state's 24-hour skilled nursing facilities for veterans. Below is the full statement of WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar:

"In the interest of the health and welfare of our members and staff, we will continue to limit visitors at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes located in Chippewa Falls, King and Union Grove in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"At this time, we do not have any diagnosed cases of COVID-19. I attribute this to the practices we had in place

and the protocols we added very early on. Limiting who enters our facilities, temperature screening those who do, and strongly enforcing our infectious disease control procedures are the best tools we have to keeping the virus at bay. We will continue to maintain these practices and protocols.

"While the Safer at Home Order is no longer in effect, we will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC for long-term care facilities and nursing homes to restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care reasons, such as end-of-life situations. The ease of spread in a long-term care setting and the severity of illness that occurs in residents

with COVID-19 requires our continued diligence in order to prevent the kind of outbreaks that other nursing facilities have experienced.

"We have about 700 members residing at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes. The residents of these Homes include the population most vulnerable to the coronavirus. Nearly all are over 60 years old and have one or more compromising medical conditions. Others in senior care facilities account for more than one third of the deaths due to COVID-19 in our country.

"Maybe you know one of the members at our Veterans Homes. They are our friends and neighbors who were

willing to give their lives for us and our country. They deserve every effort to protect them."

The Wisconsin Veterans Homes provide 24-hour skilled nursing care to veterans, their spouses, and gold star parents.

About the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs works on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans' community – veterans, their families and their survivors – in recognition of their service and sacrifice to our state and nation. For more information, visit www.WisVets.com.

Legislation Introduced to Expand Health Care Resources

submitted by the Office of Tom Udall

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 8, 2020) —U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) joined Senators Tina Smith (D-Minn.), James Lankford (R-Okla.) and Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) to introduce bipartisan legislation to boost health resources for urban Indian health organizations (UIOs) as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The senators' legislation comes as UIOs across the country face major funding and staff shortfalls, in addition to shortages in medical equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). These hardships have forced three UIOs across the country to close their doors while pushing many other facilities to the brink.

The Indian Health System is made up of the Indian Health Service, tribal health programs, and UIOs. UIOs provide culturally competent care for the over 70 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in urban centers. Currently, providers at UIOs are not offered the same malpractice liability protection as all other Indian Health Care Providers.

The Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act would amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to create parity within the Indian Health System (I/T/U system).

The legislation would expand Federal Torts Claim Act coverage (FTCA) to UIOs, which are currently required to divert already-limited resources away from patient care to cover liability costs.

"Urban Indian health programs funded by the IHS are facing revenue shortfalls while ramping up services to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. And, as a result, many of these critical health care programs are struggling to keep the lights on and their doors open. They shouldn't be the only branch of the IHS that has to divert resources away from health care services to cover exorbitant liability costs," Udall said. "The federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities to Native Americans do not stop at reservation boundaries. Nearly 70 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives live in urban areas and Congress must ensure

they have access to quality health care — especially during this public health crisis. This legislation is a common-sense measure to provide Urban Indian Health Programs with the same federal protections given to all other Indian Health Care Providers."

"Minnesota's urban Indigenous community has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, yet many urban Indian health organizations are often forced to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on costly liability protection instead of being able to use those resources to provide health care to Native community members," said Smith. "This is unacceptable. We need to make sure that urban Indian organizations can use every dollar they have to give urban Indigenous individuals the care they need. I'm glad to work in a bipartisan way to bring financial relief to these vital organizations."

"There are two prominent UIOs in Oklahoma that faithfully serve our tribal communities' healthcare needs in addition to the other important Tribal health

facilities around the state. I am glad our bill addresses this disparity in the law to help ensure equal access to medical malpractice liability coverage for the services they offer," said Lankford. "Federal tort law currently omits coverage for UIOs, and especially during the coronavirus pandemic, UIOs, like other already covered tribal health facilities, need to have the peace of mind that they can utilize their funds for care, not court cases."

"Arizona is home to four Urban Indian Organizations, all of which are forced to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on liability insurance that could otherwise be spent on patients," said McSally. "Our legislation will fix this inequity by extending federal liability coverage to our urban Indian health groups, dramatically decreasing the cost of malpractice insurance while freeing up more money for patient care. Bringing parity to Urban Indian Health is an important step to improving Native American health care across the board."

Cheyenne River Sioux Nation Responds to Threat

submitted by Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Nation

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Nation (May 10, 2020) - The following is a statement from Tribal Chairman Frazier:

The English definition of consultation is a meeting with an expert professional, such as a medical doctor, in order to seek advice." In the Lakota language, wóglakA means to speak about something." In meeting with county commissioners, municipal, South Dakota Department of Transportation, public schools and federal agencies, we have met the definition of consultation in both of our languages.

We have continuously worked with the county commissioners and municipal leaders to ensure all members and non-member issues have been addressed. We

have not stopped any state or commercial functions as you claim in your request.

Many have been inconvenienced by the current situation but the virus does not differentiate between members and non-members. It obligates us to protect everyone on the reservation regardless of political distinctions. We will not apologize for being an island of safety in a sea of uncertainty and death.

Article 16 of the Ft. Laramie Treaty signed in 1868 by your government and our respected ancestors dictates the following. " stipulates and agrees that no white person or persons shall be permitted to settle upon or occupy any portion of the same; or without the consent of

the Indians first had and obtained, to pass through the same."

I absolutely agree that we need to work together during this time of crisis, however you continue to interfere in our efforts to do what science and facts dictate seriously undermine our ability to protect everyone on the reservation. Ignorant statements and fiery rhetoric encourage individuals already under stress from this situation to carry out irrational actions.

We invite you to join us in protecting the lives of our people and those that live on this reservation. I regretfully decline your request. I stand with our elder Councilman Ed Widow that the purpose

of our actions is to. "save lives rather than save face."

Established in 1990, The Indigenous Environmental Network is an international environmental justice nonprofit that works with tribal grassroots organizations to build the capacity of Indigenous communities. IEN's activities include empowering Indigenous communities and tribal governments to develop mechanisms to protect our sacred sites, land, water, air, natural resources, the health of both our people and all living things, and to build economically sustainable communities.

Phoenix Indian Center Collecting Donations to Help the Navajo Nation

submitted by Phoenix Indian Center

Phoenix (May 8, 2020) – The Phoenix Indian Center is collecting donations of much-needed supplies – from diapers and bottled water to medical masks and cleansers – to deliver to the Navajo Nation. There is a semi-truck ready to make the delivery to Navajo communities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but we need the public's help to fill it. The Navajo Nation is the third-highest coronavirus-affected area in the United States, with 2,654 reported cases and 85 deaths.

“The Navajo Nation is in crisis, and they need our help,” said Patricia Hibbel-

er, CEO of the Phoenix Indian Center. “The suffering in Indian Country is just heartbreaking, and we urge anyone who can to please donate. Providing much-needed supplies will make a big difference in the lives of the Navajo people, some of whom are family members of our staff at the Center.”

The Navajo Nation is the largest tribal reservation in the United States, spanning Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and has seen an extremely high rate of COVID-19. To help, the Phoenix Indian Center, the first non-profit urban Indian Center in the nation, is accepting dona-

tions to send to the Navajo Nation in a semi-truck supplied courtesy of Phoenix Truck Driving Institute.

Acceptable donations include general items like baby essentials, toiletries, bottled water, and non-perishable food items, PPE items like masks or head and shoe covers, and other medical supplies like non-latex gloves and disinfectant sprays or wipes. A list of most-needed things is on the Phoenix Indian Center website.

Those wishing to contribute can call the Phoenix Indian Center to set up an appointment for drop off, or give on-

line at www.phxindcenter.org. All items and monetary donations will go directly toward helping the Navajo Nation.

About Phoenix Indian Center

Founded in 1947, the Phoenix Indian Center is the oldest American Indian non-profit organization in the United States. Each Year, the Center directly serves more than 7,000 individuals, and more than 20,000 through related outreach, by providing services in the areas of job readiness, cultural enrichment, youth services, and prevention programs. Learn more at www.phxindcenter.org.

On National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day Indigenous Organizers Hold Action at KXL Route in Montana

submitted by Indigenous Environmental Network

Northern Montana (May 7, 2020) - Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux frontline organization Kokipansi held a non-violent protest on May 5th, 2020 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day at the Keystone XL pipeline construction site at the Montana/Canadian border. The Fort Peck Tribe has been outspoken against TC Energy's Keystone XL pipeline building two pipeline man camps located on each side of the tribal nation bringing an increased risk of human trafficking to the community. Data collection has begun to show what Indigenous peoples have long said, pipeline man camps bring increased

human trafficking and violence to nearby Indigenous communities.

“We are here today to bring awareness to the man camps that put Indigenous youth like myself and my friends in danger. I have been chased by oil workers and the KXL pipeline man camps outside Fort Peck bring increased violence to my home.” said Prairiedawn Thunderkid-Blacklance Kokipansi Indigenous Youth Organizer.

Fort Peck has been one of the many tribal nations of Oceti Sakowin who have fought TC Energy's (formerly TransCanada) Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline for a decade. In 2015, then-President Obama

rejected the pipeline but Trump has continuously skirted the law to push the pipeline through. If built, this dirty tar sands project will run through the tribal nation's only fresh water sources, the Milk and Missouri Rivers, and put at high risk the tribe's new \$300M water treatment plant.

“Kokipansi is honoring our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.” said Angeline Cheek, Kokipansi organizer We will continue to stand against the KXL pipeline because we know the man camps TC Energy is building near our tribal lands without our consent will bring violence to not just our land but also our

people.”

Established in 1990, The Indigenous Environmental Network is an international environmental justice nonprofit that works with tribal grassroots organizations to build the capacity of Indigenous communities. IEN's activities include empowering Indigenous communities and tribal governments to develop mechanisms to protect our sacred sites, land, water, air, natural resources, the health of both our people and all living things, and to build economically sustainable communities.

BIE Announces University President

submitted by Bureau of Indian Education

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 15, 2020) – Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Tony L. Dearman announced the selection of Dr. Ronald J. Graham as the new president at Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell).

“We are pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Graham as Haskell President,” said Director Dearman. “Dr. Graham comes with tremendous skills and abilities not only in educational programs, but also in focusing on diversity and inclusion in education. Dr. Graham is passionate about soliciting and using input from stakeholders and fostering a team environment to create success. His leadership style will provide the platform necessary for Haskell's current dedicated staff to be part of team decisions that will move Haskell forward.”

Dr. Graham received his Doctor of Education in Organization and Leader-

ship/International Multicultural Education at the University of San Francisco, CA. He most recently served as the Dean of Instruction in Health Sciences, Public Safety and Industrial Technology at Victor Valley College located in Victorville, CA. Dr. Graham enters with a wealth of knowledge and experience that will serve the Haskell community well.

“Having worked in the education field for almost 25 years in major universities and community colleges, I was ecstatic about the Haskell Indian Nations University president position,” remarked Dr. Graham. “To work with a university, such as this flagship institution, that educates tribal youth and future tribal leadership is extremely exciting. In the past, I have worked on five-year strategic plans, marketing ideas, improving student retention and growth, as well as enhancing university IT software and

much more. I plan to use this experience to drive projects to improve the student and staff experience at Haskell. This will be a total university team effort to move Haskell forward into the next phase of the college's already phenomenal legacy.”

Haskell Indian Nations University

Haskell has an average student enrollment of more than 1000 students each semester with students representing 140 federally recognized tribes from across the United States. Haskell prepares students to enter baccalaureate programs in elementary teacher education, American Indian studies, business administration, and environmental science; to transfer to another baccalaureate degree-granting institution; or to enter directly into employment. Haskell also integrates American Indian/Alaska Native culture into all its curricula.

Haskell's Vision and Mission live in all they do, as they work to serve students in this unique and diverse inter-tribal setting with a commitment to the advancement of sovereignty, self-determination, and the inherent rights of tribes. Haskell is focused

on building leadership capacity within its students by serving as the leading institution of academic excellence, cultural and intellectual prominence, and holistic education that addresses the needs of Indigenous communities. For more information, visit Haskell Indian Nation University website at <https://www.haskell.edu/>

Bureau of Indian Education

The Bureau of Indian Education implements federal Indian education programs and funds 183 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools serving approximately 47,000 students. BIE oversees the operation of two post-secondary schools, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and Haskell Indian Nations University. BIE administers grants for 29 tribally controlled colleges and universities and two tribal technical colleges. For more information, visit BIE website at <https://www.bie.edu/>.

Partners Commit to Long-Term Initiative to Conserve the American Bison

submitted by Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 7, 2020) - U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced the Bison Conservation Initiative (BCI), a new cooperative initiative that will coordinate conservation strategies and approaches for the wild American Bison over the next 10 years. The Department of the Interior (DOI) and its partners have been successful in restoring the populations of the American Bison and supporting healthy herds. With unprecedented interest and cooperation among partners – including states, tribes, nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – bison conservation is well equipped to move beyond the confluence of strong analytical assessments and toward coordinated conservation action.

“Interior is uniquely positioned to lead the way for shared stewardship of this iconic American species,” said Secretary Bernhardt. “This 10-year plan will guide our collaboration with states, tribes, private conservationists and managers across public lands to advance conservation efforts and honor iconic wild bison.”

Bison were hunted to near extinction in the late 19th century. Today, there are about 11,000 plains bison in 19 herds on 4.6 million acres of public land across 12 states because of successful public-private conservation partnerships. In 2016, Congress recognized the importance of the American Bison to the country’s history, celebrating it as our national mammal.

“We are doing something that has never been done. It shows what is possible when business, philanthropy, and government work together to create multiple bottom line initiatives supporting the environment, people, fiscal responsibility, and Native nation building,”

said Rosebud Economic Development Corporation’s CEO, Wizipan Little Elk.

“The bison looms large in the culture and traditions of Native nations,” said Carter Roberts, President and CEO of World Wildlife Fund. “This announcement matters for several reasons: it represents a homecoming for this iconic species, and it’s also a reunion with the communities who lived with them for centuries in a symbiotic relationship. We are honored to be partners in this effort with the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation and the U.S. Department of the Interior, and we look forward to seeing the bison return to the Rosebud Reservation later this year.”

“We are living through unprecedented challenges; times that demand new ideas, new strategies, and deeper and more diverse partnership. Our collaboration with the Department of the Interior’s Bison Conservation Initiative embodies this and represents a pivotal approach to the conservation of a species that is vital to both our ecological and cultural heritage. Launching a collaborative strategy for the ecological and cultural recovery of our national mammal, a symbol of unity, resilience, and health, could not come at a better time for the American people and our unique natural heritage,” said Director of U.S. Conservation for Wildlife Conservation Society, Cristina Mormorunni.

The DOI Bison Working Group (BWG)--comprised of representatives from the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Indian Affairs--has worked with its partners to strengthen resource coordination, institute a conservation genetics framework

and publish investigations into metapopulation management and herd health.

The BWG will now:

- Develop and launch a DOI bison metapopulation strategy
- Develop and implement a DOI bison stewardship plan
- Improve and expand mechanisms to support ecocultural restoration of live bison
- Adopt low stress capture and handling practices

These actions will be organized around five central goals:

- Wild, Healthy Bison Herds: A commitment to conserve bison as healthy wildlife.
- Genetic Conservation: A commitment to an interagency, science-based approach to support genetic diversity across DOI bison conservation herds.
- Shared Stewardship: A commitment to shared stewardship of wild bison in cooperation with states, tribes and other stakeholders.
- Ecological Restoration: A commitment to establish and maintain large, wide-ranging bison herds on appropriate large landscapes where their role as ecosystem engineers shape healthy and diverse ecological communities.
- Cultural Restoration: A commitment to restore cultural connections to honor and promote the unique status of bison as an American icon for all people.

As one of the BCI’s first actions, Secretary Bernhardt announced two bison transfers will take place later this year, demonstrating the focused direction toward enhanced intra-departmental cooperation and partnership. The transfer of bison among the Department’s herds and across bureaus maintains genetic diversity of wild bison populations, especially for

smaller herds that are managed in isolation. These transfers will support ecological and cultural restoration of bison.

The NPS and FWS will collaborate on the transfer of wild bison from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. Translocated bison will be included in an on-going NPS genetics study to measure the extent of their integration into an existing herd.

For the second transfer, the DOI commits to donate wild bison to support the establishment of a new bison herd on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. The Wolakota Buffalo Range will support ecological restoration, cultural practices, economic development, food security and public education on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. The new tribal herd is enabled by a cooperative project with the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation and the World Wildlife Fund.

For additional information about the science, benefits and goals of bison transfers, see the population viability analysis conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, NPS and FWS that was also released today.

In addition to these field-based efforts, the BCI directs cooperating bureaus to develop and implement a science-based Department Metapopulation Strategy and work with states, tribes and NGOs to develop a shared stewardship plan that furthers ecological and cultural restoration of bison.

The 2020 Bison Conservation Initiative page provides additional information about how the DOI is working to improve the conservation and management of bison.

Twenty Two Tons of Food Delivered to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

submitted by Running Strong for American Indian Youth

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (May 7, 2020) – Running Strong for American Indian Youth delivered 44,200 pounds of shelf stable food to Running Strong’s field office Tipi Waste Un Zanipi (Wellness Through A Good Home) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The special delivery was an act of COVID-19 relief for 1,700 families.

Food insecurity is a prevalent issue in remote rural communities, and Native American reservations face especially taxing conditions as tribal authorities take measures to fight the spread of illness during the coronavirus crisis. Many have

restricted travel beyond the reservation, and limited trips to already-scarce grocery stores.

“It’s a scary time out here on the plains because our resources are an hour away in each direction,” said Dave Lone Elk, Running Strong’s Field Coordinator. “Groceries are hard to come by too. I think this shipment is going to make a big difference in helping people get through the next couple months.”

Each of the 1,700 food boxes delivered to Tipi Waste contain 26 pounds of shelf stable fruit, vegetables, protein and grains. One box is designed to feed

two meals a day for a family of four for two weeks, and all boxes will be distributed from Tipi Waste in their entirety by utilizing a contactless drive-up/drive-through system. The delivery was made by a specialized transportation service to ensure as few points of contact as possible during the route and was approved by Oglala Sioux Tribe authorities to be delivered straight to the warehouse and distributed after a mandatory two-day disinfecting period.

In response to community need on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Running Strong built Tipi Waste Un Zanipi

in 1997. This was followed by a 1,280 sq. foot addition in 2017 in addition to a loading dock. Tipi Waste Un Zanipi is also the distribution hub for the annual Heat Match, annual winter clothes distribution, the headquarters for Running Strong water connections, and more seasonal programs.

Running Strong for American Indian Youth works to help Native American communities with immediate survival needs. To learn more about our programs visit the Running Strong site at www.indianyouth.org or contact hanna@indianyouth.org.

Veterans Benefits Information

submitted by Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

MADISON (May 6, 2020) - Veterans with questions about Wisconsin's veterans' programs, benefits and services are encouraged to call the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Benefits Resource Center (VBRC). Staff are standing by to answer questions and help veterans navigate eligibility processes for veteran and survivor benefits, programs and services at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).

There are three ways to contact VBRC:

- Phone at 1-800-WIS-VETS
- Email at WisVets@dva.wisconsin.gov
- LiveChat (on the lower right-hand corner of www.WisVets.com)

All contact methods are monitored Monday - Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. central time.

"As all of us have made adjustments due the COVID-19 pandemic; there's no question that WDVA remains focused on serving our Wisconsin veterans community," WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar said.

"Our state's veterans can rest assured that they are able to receive the benefits they have earned. The VBRC continues to be available to answer questions, and to process eligibility determinations and grant applications, and they are doing so without delay."

Face-to-face and walk-in activities at VBRC remain suspended to maintain the health and safety of veterans, visitors and WDVA staff. The State of Wisconsin, including the WDVA, continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and other local, state, and

federal partners. We encourage you to visit WDVA's COVID-19 Updates webpage regularly for the most up-to-date information on our programs and services. Access to this page is available at www.WisVets.com.

Thank you for your patience and understanding and for joining us to help prevent the spread of disease. We remain dedicated to maintaining our service to Wisconsin veterans and their families. For additional information, contact: WDVA Office of Public Affairs, Patty Harrison, Patty.Harrison@dva.wisconsin.gov.

CARES Act FCC Telehealth Grant for Navajo Nation Applauded

submitted by the Office of Tom Udall

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 12, 2020) — U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) announced that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Wireline Competition Bureau approved \$954,990 to the Navajo Nation Department of Health for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program funded 56 health care providers in 23 states for a total of \$24.9 million in funding.

The funding will be used to provide home healthcare and remote monitoring services throughout Navajo Nation to pa-

tients who are isolated and under shelter-in-place orders, including low-income, elderly, vulnerable, and high-risk patients. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the vital importance of affordable broadband services to Tribal communities for health care, distance learning, and teleworking. Earlier this year, Senators Udall and Heinrich introduced the Bridging the Tribal Digital Divide Act to accelerate the deployment of broadband services to Native communities and bridge the digital divide facing Native communities.

"Tribal communities, and other rural populations in New Mexico, have suffered tremendously because of the COVID-19 pandemic and our rural

health care providers and other frontline workers continue to act as the lifelines for Tribal, rural, and high-risk patients," said Udall, vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. "This grant is a step in the right direction, but I will be fighting to secure further telehealth resources and expand broadband access throughout the Navajo Nation and Indian Country so that Native communities have access to quality health care services. As we return to Washington, I will be fighting for Tribal communities and New Mexico communities to have greater access to broadband services to minimize public health disparities."

"The Navajo Nation is experiencing

severe and disproportionate outbreaks of the coronavirus," said Heinrich. "We must do everything we can to bring lifesaving health care to those who need it, particularly those living in remote reservation communities. I'm proud to support this critical funding from the CARES Act that will allow health care providers to treat hard-to-reach patients on the Navajo Nation. As Indian Country continues to face immense challenges confronting this pandemic, I remain committed to fighting for all the funding and resources that tribes need to support a public health response that is rooted in science and a strong long-term recovery."

Navajo Nation: Economic Development, Water Infrastructure Planning

submitted by Rainmaker Media Group

The disproportionate high rates of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation (Nation) has recently made headlines at the world stage and has brought to light the lack of in-home sanitation facilities and lack of potable water infrastructure coverage.

This lack of this critical water infrastructure has been attributed as one of the primary reasons for the disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 cases on the Nation as many residents do not readily have access to the clean water needed for handwashing and other sanitary uses.

The lack of potable water infrastructure coverage on the Nation has been a long-standing issue prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and is also one of the primary underlying causes for the multitude of issues that plague the Nation such as high-poverty levels, low socio-economic status, lack of jobs, and other non-COVID-19 health disparities.

The influx of outside resources, donations and support has been good for the Nation during this calamitous time, but unfortunately a lot of the aid is only satisfying the immediate needs and

is a temporary "band-aid" fix that is not addressing the root of the problem.

After the COVID-19 cases reduce and headlines subside, the overall underlying problem still will not have been addressed.

The Nation will be able to put out this fire, but what about a potential second wave of COVID-19? A different pandemic? Drought? Climate Change? Economic Recessions? These potential disruptions will also be exacerbated if the root of the problem is not addressed.

A significant effort must be spent on long-term solutions. Left un-addressed, the Nation will leave itself vulnerable to the next social disruption. Fixing the underlying issues requires a call to action from the Nation's leaders and government departments to enact change.

The root cause for the lack of water infrastructure deficiencies on the Nation is the absence of a stable sustainable economy. As a sustainable economy is dependent on a reliable potable water infrastructure to support it, so is a sustainable water infrastructure is dependent on a sustainable economy.

Water infrastructure and economic development must be planned together. You cannot have one without the other.

What is needed is an integrated planning framework for water infrastructure implementation that can balance economic development and health objectives. A Nation-wide global master planned approach driven by a common vision is needed to plan, design, and integrate all stakeholders and agencies.

The master planning must be led by the Nation and not an outside agency. This integrated planning framework must also involve input from the Navajo Nation Council as to which water infrastructure projects should get funded.

With project capital cost needs greatly exceeding available funding, not all projects can be constructed simultaneously. Thus, the Nation's leaders must decide which projects should be funded first and in a systematic manner, which is not an easy feat.

Eventually, the Nation needs to stop looking to outside resources to solve our problems.

We know what needs to be fixed, we

know the issues better than anyone else. We live it, we know what it takes to haul water so why do we rely on outside people who have never hauled water a day in their life to solve our problems? Only the Navajo Nation can solve its own problems.

The Nation has the technical persons to address this problem. We have Navajo medical doctors, epidemiologist, water engineers and planners, accountants, lawyers, and experts in almost every field that can help solve these problems. The Nation must call on them, ask for help and put them to work.

A short paper is available summarizing some of key issues regarding the lack of water infrastructure on the Nation. It also provides some potential short- and long-term solutions. The paper can be found at <https://riley-eng.com/publications>. Feel free to contact me with questions and feedback at ronson@riley-eng.com.

Sincerely,

Ronson R. Chee, Ph.D., P.E. | Principal Water Resources Engineer

Senate Passage of Resolution Honoring Native Women Announced

submitted by the Office of Tom Udall

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 8, 2020) – U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.), vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, announced the Senate passed the resolution he led with Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) to celebrate and honor the successes of Indigenous women across the country. The resolution recognizes the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States, highlighting the importance of promoting equity, providing safety, and upholding the interests of strong, diverse women.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are stepping up to serve their communities in a variety of ways, from providing frontline services like healthcare and public safety to representing their communities in the highest levels of government service and Tribal leadership. Their dedication during this crisis is just the latest example of the truly remarkable contributions of Native women throughout our Nation’s history,” said Udall. “I am proud to work with Senator Murkowski on this resolution to honor the work and accomplishments of so many groundbreaking Native women – including Native New Mexican women like Santa Clara Pueblo’s Floy Agnes Lee and Ohkay Owingeh’s Esther Martinez. As vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I will continue to fight for legislation and policies that honors the legacy of their work and ensures

future generations of Native women have the tools, rights, and opportunities they need to thrive.”

“We have been working hard to shine a light on the disproportionate amounts of violence experienced by Indigenous women across the U.S. But as we continue our work to make right those inequities, it is equally important that we recognize the great accomplishments, heritage, culture, and contributions of Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian women,” said Murkowski. “Earlier this year, we unveiled a new \$1 coin featuring Elizabeth Peratrovich, who is deeply admired for her legacy as an Alaska Native civil rights leader. Women like Elizabeth Peratrovich and how they paved the way for future generations should be remembered and celebrated.”

Udall and Murkowski have introduced a similar resolution honoring indigenous women every year since 2018.

In addition to Udall and Murkowski, the resolution is cosponsored by U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.), Mazie Hirono (D-Ha-

waii), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Angus King (I-Maine), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

Resolution excerpts:

- Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women contribute to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, fine arts, military service, and public service.

- Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have demonstrated resilience and courage in the face of a history of threatened existence, constant removals, and relocations.

- Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made precious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States.

- Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women broke down historical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—

- (1) Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter Laura Beltz Wright of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II; and

- Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to important scientific

advancements, including—

- (1) Floy Agnes Lee of Santa Clara Pueblo, who—

- (A) worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II; and

- (B) pioneered research on radiation biology and cancer;

- Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have regularly led efforts to revitalize and maintain Native cultures and languages, including—

- (A) Tewa linguist and teacher Esther Martinez, who developed a Tewa dictionary and was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language; and

- (B) Native Hawaiian scholar Mary Kawena Pukui, who published more than 50 academic works and was considered the most noted Hawaiian translator of the 20th century;

- Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have played a vital role in advancing civil rights, protecting human rights, and safeguarding the environment, including Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich of the Tlingit Nation, who—

- (1) helped secure the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 of the Alaska Territory, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

- (2) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 \$1 coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions.

NB3 Foundation Launches ‘Helping Our Relatives’ Project

courtesy NB3 Foundation

The “Helping Our Relatives” Project is a unique internal organization effort to engage all staff in direct giving and supporting those in need. A modest amount was given to each staff member to use as they see fit to support youth, elders and families. The manner and method staff choose, the people they choose and what they choose to purchase or support is completely up to them.

Here is one story from staff member Renee Goldtooth-Halwood and her use of funds:

“Helping Our Relatives” funding was shared via groceries to Whippoorwill community elders on Navajo Nation. The area is in a rural part of the Nation and homesteads are quite distant from paved road. Some families may have vehicles but are not reliable and other

community members are fiercely protecting their families. The process to strategically plan how to share essentials was quite involved: standing in line at Bashas (local grocery store), getting my temperature checked by security, having to stand to the side until my temperature cooled, filling my cart, purchasing, loading, unloading, disinfecting each item, washing produce, repacking in clean sanitized bags, then driving rough roads to deliver.

I traveled with my mother who was adamant to join me and said, “I’ll stay in the car.” She was a wonderful companion, sitting in the front seat, with her mask and gloves on. Between the car where she sat, me standing to the side and relative’s eastern facing doorways, we shared tears full of love for each other and also for the unknown future. We wanted

to communicate with action that we are thinking of them through prayer, through song that takes us from sunrise, sunset, twilight, darkness then back again. Taking the pandemic one day at a time.

In addition to the groceries, the Helping Our Relatives funding fed the people by contributing to a lunch for the team’s at the Apache County and Navajo Community Health Representative (CHR) for assisting NB3 Foundation with unloading and storing 300 boxes of food, thousands of gallons of water, and then keeping them safe until the CHR’s can deliver. In addition to all these wonderful points of light, I was quite impressed with the collaborative efforts of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service Chinle Service Unit, NAIHS CSU (federal), Navajo CHR Program (tribal), Apache

County (county) and Notah Begay III Foundation (native-led non-profit). This NAIHS CSU Division of Public Health team was so organized they created and printed recipes using ingredients in the NB3 Foundation boxes. In unloading boxes at Apache County, I learned more about how the CHR’s are delivering firewood and coal to community and how local young people making care packages for community. Many stories to tell but I’ll end with saying that we were honored to hear the Navajo sun song after unloading boxes, a reminder about the reciprocity that reverberates through all of our collective work whether it’s funding, food, water, masks, and time.

The generosity of donors helped us move with urgency to protect our people, thank you for that.

10 Year Anniversary: GREENFIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICE'S STORY OF SUCCESS



Brian Kraus, GMS Chief Financial Officer
Since 2011

As part of our ongoing series celebrating the company's first decade, we look at years four through six (2014-2016), which were explosive growth years for our company. "As we entered 2014, Greenfire clearly progressed beyond the start-up phase, becoming a capable and respected construction management firm," said Brian Kraus, Greenfire's Chief Financial Officer, and one of the company's original employees.

While the company was still engaged in multiple tribal projects at that time, the leadership team made enormous strides in achieving full diversification, securing significant non-tribal projects through Sherman Associates, Mandel Group and Wangard Partners among others. "This was the beginning of our foray into the multi-family residential business," said Kraus. "The company excelled quickly as a significant contributor in the industry as a result of the expertise we developed in that category.

Paper Box Lofts, Beaumont Place, and the Echelon Apartments at Innovation Campus in Wauwatosa were just the beginning of our growth in multi-family residential development."

2014 was the first year Greenfire made the Milwaukee Business Journal's list of largest Milwaukee-area construction firms, coming in at #20. The company has remained on that list ever since. In 2015, we also made the Business Journal's list (#6) of the largest Milwaukee-area based minority-owned businesses.

"In 2015 and 2016 we saw tremendous growth in both the size of our team and the size of the projects we secured," said Kraus. "We started work on Belay Apartments, the Wgeththa Building historic preservation, River House Apartments, Forge & Flare at Drexel Town Center and Stitchweld Apartments. These projects, many of which became award-winning, were significant in many ways. Our growth and success during this time allowed us to establish a strong reputation as a company delivering innovative construction solutions that maximize value."

By the end of 2016, Greenfire had climbed to #16 on the Milwaukee Business Journal's list of largest Milwaukee-area construction firms, and Greenfire took the #3 spot for Fastest Growing Firms and #3 for largest Milwaukee-area based minority-owned businesses.

"These were incredibly important years for our company, and we remain grateful for the opportunities everyone in the industry gave us at that time," said Kraus. "The trust and support of our customers, partners, and owners propelled us on a track of success and we are committed to continuing on that path."



Project Spotlight: MAXWELL

Maxwell is a historical renovation of a 100-year-old industrial building in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood adapted for multi-family use. The site sits on a compact, urban lot surrounded by high-traffic streets and fully-occupied buildings.

Demolition began in October of 2018 deconstructing the building down to the original structural framing, floors and columns. The development consists of three connected buildings (Building 17, 18, and 19) and sits on a series of turn-of-the-century wooden piles requiring extensive structural repair to the existing concrete foundation wall. A new six-inch, metal stud exterior wall was installed to support new construction.

New construction includes construction of metal stud framing and installation of all new windows, MEPs, and fire protection systems. The team also constructed a new elevator shaft and system in the existing freight elevator footprint. The building expanded to the South for a new entry vestibule housing the leasing office, lobby, mailroom and community area for tenants. A vertical expansion for Building 19 houses the 6-unit penthouse and Building 17 has a community rooftop patio that will open end of May.

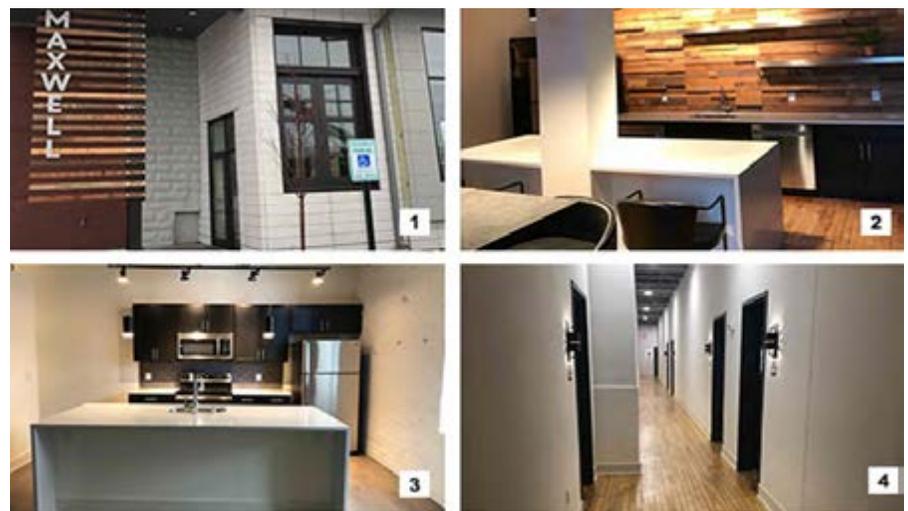


Photo: (1) New entry vestibule into the main lobby (2) A look at the community gathering room equipped with fireplace, lounge areas, and television (3) A look at fully finished kitchen fitted with waterfall quartz counters (4) A look at corridors equipped with unit entry sconces and refurbished hardwood floors

Maxwell houses 110 apartments and six two-bedroom, two-bathroom penthouse units with a community patio on top of Building 17. A vertical expansion was required for the building 19 penthouse. Throughout the building, the team refurbished exposed heavy timber beams and existing hardwood floors and repurposed historical elements as installations to maintain character. Units range from studio to two-bedroom and come with full kitchen and bath, quartz countertops, and in-unit laundry.

Exterior work includes extensive parapet work, existing window lintel repairs, tuckpointing for 30% of the brick façade, new window openings for several units, and a new surface parking lot. The project also includes new construction of an underground garage requiring the team to cut a new overhead door entry and five access points through 30" thick masonry walls. In total, Maxwell offers 60 parking stalls.

The project received historical tax credits requiring extensive work with the architect and the National Park Society to retain character and assess design constructability. Building 17 and 18 turned over in January 2020 with Building 19 turning over this month. The entire building is at 60% tenant capacity requiring strong onsite supervision to coordinate construction and maintain a safe, productive and disruption-free site in an active environment.

The Owner is Roers Companies and the Architect is Continuum Architects. The Greenfire project team includes Andrew Ziebell, Project Manager; Randy Potter, Superintendent; Eric Rank, Assistant Superintendent; Zach Brucker, Project Engineer, and Angelo Rodriguez, Laborer.