

Trump Signs Stimulus Package- What it Means To Indian Country

(AP-PALM BEACH, Fla.) President Donald Trump on Sunday evening, Dec. 27, signed the a \$908 billion Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act into law, which sets in motion the release of the \$908 billion emergency relief passed by Congress last Monday.

The key component for the average American is direct stimulus payments of \$600 to individuals who earned up to \$75,000 in 2019 or less than \$150,000 per couple. So, a family of four will receive \$2,400. Those individuals who earned more than \$75,000 and up to \$99,000 would have a reduced stimulus check. Individuals who made more than \$99,000 are ineligible for the stimulus program.

Trump released a video via Twitter that said the \$600 per individual was not enough. He said \$600 per individual was a “disgrace” and the stimulus payments per individual should have been \$2,000. He left the White House to fly to his Florida home without signing the Act, which left speculation he would not sign it.

On Saturday unemployment benefits for over 10 million Americans ran out. Sunday’s signing will restore the unemployment benefits and will avert a government shutdown that

would have gone into effect on Tuesday.

COVID-19 Relief for Indian Country and Native communities in the COVID-19 funding package includes:

Coronavirus Relief Fund Extension

Provides a one-year extension to Dec. 31, 2021, for Tribal governments to use funds appropriated through the CARES Act; and

Ensures Tribes will continue to have access to the funds they need to maintain essential safety net services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Broadband (\$1 billion)

Sets aside \$1 billion for direct support to Native American communities, including Tribal Colleges and Universities and Native Hawaiian communities, for access to broadband through the Department of Commerce.

Vaccines, Testing and Tracing, and Community health (\$1 billion)

Provides a \$1 billion direct transfer to the Indian Health Service to distribute to federal, Tribal, and urban health programs for vaccine distribution and testing, tracing, and mitigation for COVID-19 – including:

\$210 million will ensure IHS facilities, Tribes, and urban Native communities have the resources they need for COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration, and

\$790 million will be available to support testing, contact tracing, and other COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Mental Health (\$125 million)

Sets aside \$125 million in additional funding for Tribes and urban Indian health organizations within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to address the mental health needs of Native communities.

Telehealth (\$25 million)

Provides a \$25 million direct transfer to the Indian Health Service from the FCC to enhance telehealth access at federal, Tribal, and urban health programs

Housing Assistance (\$800 million)

Sets aside \$800 million in funding for Tribally Designated Housing Entities and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to address housing stability issues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

See STIMULUS BILL pg. 6

Arrival of COVID-19 Vaccines Sparks an Ember of Hope



Clinton Indian Health Services nurse practitioner Angela Cloud prepares the very first vaccination to be administered to tribal elders at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Independent Living Center in Clinton, Okla. (Photo / Rosemary Stephens)

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

While families continue to mourn the deaths of their family members ravaged by COVID-19, a small sprinkling of hope begins to emerge on the horizon of the New Year 2021. Hope in the form of vaccines designed to stop the spread of COVID-19.

On Dec. 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Five days later, upon its arrival to the Clinton Service Unit (CSU), the Pfizer vaccine was being administered to frontline health care workers and emergency medical personnel at the Clinton, El Reno and Watonga Indian Health Services. The vaccination distribution included the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe’s Emergency Manage-

ment Services (EMS) staff as well as tribal Elders living at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Independent Living Center in Clinton, Okla.

Michelle Tippeconnic and Laura Jones, family nurse practitioners at the El Reno Indian Health Clinic were among some of the first healthcare workers to be vaccinated on Dec. 16.

“I encourage everyone to be informed on the vaccine and the benefits of it for the future of you, your family and the future of our people,” Tippeconnic said.

CSU’s Chief Executive Officer Capt. Joe Bryant stated in a release, “We, as health care professionals, must lead the way for our patients and communities to follow. Vaccinations are our only way out of the pandemic and resumption of any sense of normalcy.” He went on to thank the health care professionals who chose to receive the vaccine.

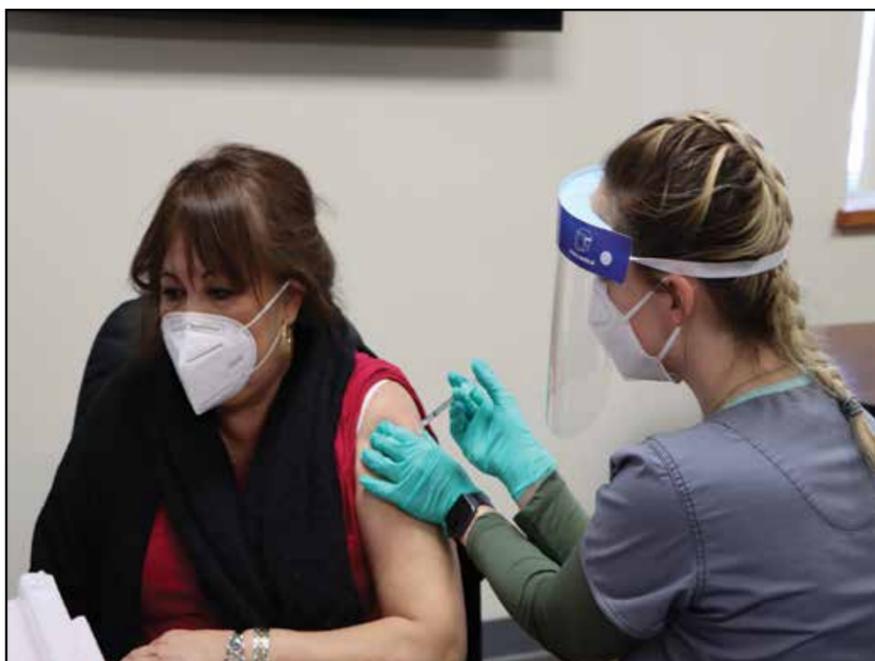
In simple terms, the Pfizer vaccine acts much like a messenger to the body, describing to the body what the coronavirus looks like, and acts like and what it wants the body to do if the virus is detected. The vaccine itself does not contain a live COVID-19 virus, therefore some people may experience minor side effects from the vaccination which include mild body aches. The Pfizer vaccine has been given authorization to treat patients ages 16 years and older, and requires two injections 21 days apart, with a 95% effective rate, according to the FDA.

The Moderna vaccine was authorized to treat patients ages 18 years and older, and also requires two vaccinations, but 28 days apart and has a 94.1% effective rate.

See COVID-19 VACCINES pg. 9



Tribal Elder Erma Brown is delighted to be given the opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Brown is a resident of the Independent Living Center in Clinton, Okla. Clinton Indian Health Service nurse practitioner Lydia Garvey administers the vaccination. (Photo / Rosemary Stephens)



Ann Wilson, Director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) receives one of the first Pfizer vaccines in Clinton, Okla. Wilson became overcome with emotion thinking of those who passed away as a result of contracting the coronavirus causing COVID-19. (Photo / Chris RomanNose)

Rep. Deb Haaland Poised to Become the First Native American to Lead a Cabinet Agency

By Aliya Chavez, Indian Country Today

President-elect Joe Biden, in a historic move, has chosen Rep. Deb Haaland to lead the U.S. Interior Department. If confirmed by the Senate, the New Mexico Democrat would be the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary.

“A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior,” Haaland tweeted Thursday night.

“Growing up in my mother’s Pueblo household made me fierce. I’ll be fierce for all of us, our planet, and all of our protected land. I am honored and ready to serve.”

Biden confirmed the nomination late Thursday as part of his climate team, which also includes secretary of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and national climate advisor.

“This brilliant, tested, trailblazing team will be ready on Day One to confront the existential threat of climate change with a unified national response rooted in science and equity,” the president-elect said in a statement.

Sources familiar with the decision on Haaland told Indian Country Today she is considered a “barrier-breaking public servant” and a nominee who will hit the ground running.

Haaland, who is from the Pueblos of Laguna and Jemez, became one of the first two Native women elected to Congress in 2018.

The Interior Department is tasked with protecting the nation’s natural resources and honoring the government’s federal trust responsibilities. It manages America’s vast public lands and coastal waters while overseeing prominent departments such as the Bureau of In-



Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna and Jemez Pueblos, is poised to be selected by President-elect Joe Biden to lead the Department of Interior. (Photo by Haaland for Congress)

dian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. The agency employs 70,000 people.

Haaland’s nomination has been backed by many Indigenous leaders, advocates and allies for weeks.

Many shared their elation Thursday as news of the decision spread.

More than 130 tribal leaders collaborated to write letters to Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, citing Haaland’s bipartisan leadership. Native organizations including NDN Collective and IllumiNative created online campaigns, and celebrities like Mark Ruffalo have offered support via social media.

“The nomination of Rep. Deb Haaland, a champion of the environment and of Native people, heralds a new era of conservation, progress and healing in the Department of the Interior that is long overdue,” said Gussie Lord, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and managing attorney of Earthjustice’s Tribal Partnerships Pro-

gram. Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez called it a “truly a historic and unprecedented day for all Indigenous people.”

“I congratulate her, and I also thank the Biden-Harris team for making a statement and keeping their word to place Native Americans in high-level Cabinet positions,” he said in a statement.

Julian Brave Noisecat, a vocal advocate who is a member of the Canim Lake Band Tsq’escen and a descendant of the Lil’Wat Nation of Mount Currie, highlighted Haaland’s unique position, saying: “The next Secretary of Interior will be a Laguna Pueblo woman who went to Standing Rock in 2016 and cooked for the people.”

Groups that shared their support on social media and in statements included the National Congress of American Indians, the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, the Coalition to Protect

See DEB HAALAND pg. 8

Santa’s First Visit to Indian Camp

By Arapaho Chief Allen Sutton

In the early years when the Indians first heard about Santa Claus, they knew that Santa would come visit their camp. As the elders sat around and talked about this man called “Santa Claus,” they knew that Santa would bring everyone gifts to the camp.

Late at night, the young braves who were guarding the camp sat and talked about the kind of gifts this man Santa would bring them. One brave thought for a while and said, “this man called Santa is to bring deer to us. All we have to do is wait on Santa and his deer to show up in our camp.”

Santa arrived very late at night and tied his deer to trees just outside the camp. Santa took his gifts and left them at the tipi doors of everyone in camp. As Santa made his way back to his deer out by the trees, the young braves were taking the deer to their camps.

The young braves thanked this man called “Santa Claus” for bringing good gifts to their camp and shouted, “Thank you Santa for the deer meat!” and “we’ll see you next year!” as Santa walked off through the woods with an empty sack over his shoulder.

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Coronavirus vaccines can have side effects: That typically means they're working

By Joel Achenbach

The new coronavirus vaccine appears to be stunningly effective — blocking serious illness entirely in randomized trials — and it has passed strict safety reviews and won emergency authorization from regulators in the United States and several other countries so far. But news bulletins in the past week provided a reminder that this remains a revolutionary pharmaceutical agent that will be scrutinized in the months ahead as shots go into arms.

Among the unknowns: To what extent does the vaccine prevent infection vs. simply preventing clinical illness?

Can a vaccinated person who becomes infected, but not sick, transmit the virus to someone else? That's a pivotal factor in forecasting how rapidly the pandemic will be quashed once there is widespread distribution of vaccines.

Scientists will also be vigilant for severe allergic reactions. Last week, two health-care workers in the United Kingdom who were among the first batch of people to get the vaccine after it was authorized developed anaphylaxis, a severe allergic response.

Both were known to have a history of severe allergic reactions, and both were treated and recovered. A third person reportedly suffered a rapid heartbeat. British authorities issued new guidance saying people with a history of anaphylaxis should consult with their doctor before taking the vaccine. Researchers do not know what substance in the vaccine formula triggered the severe allergic response.

"When you make a decision to launch a vaccine like this, it's not because you know everything," said Paul Offit, a pediatrician and vaccine expert at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and member of a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel that endorsed the vaccine Thursday. But, he added, "I think we know enough."

Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Saturday, "I don't think that the allergic reactions are even close to being a showstopper for the Pfizer vaccine."

He said the criteria for participation in the random trials excluded people with a history of severe allergic reactions, and it is not surprising that, as the vaccine reached the general population, such rare allergic responses emerged. He said officials will continue to monitor the safety of the vaccines long after they have received emergency authorization.

"Observation of safety does not end when you start administering vaccines to the general public," he said.

The big picture is that covid-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, is a known killer, and has already taken nearly 300,000 lives in the United States and more than 1 million worldwide. Vaccines are essential to crushing the pandemic. U.S. public health officials hope at least 70 percent of the population will agree to be inoculated with one of the vaccines rolled out in the coming months.

"I feel like we're doing something historic, and there's multiple vaccines, and we should be able to lick this," said immunologist Stanley Perlman of the University of Iowa, who is also a member of the advisory panel that voted Thursday to recommend the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

But he acknowledged he is concerned about potential side effects that may not yet have been identified.

"I worry about something coming up that we don't know anything about. The unknown," he said.

Two criteria for a good vaccine are "effective" and "safe." The coronavirus vaccine technically named BNT162b2 and developed by industry giant Pfizer and BioNTech meets both standards, according to the professionals who have developed the vaccine, conducted randomized clinical trials and reviewed resulting data during the past several months.

It has received emergency authorization from the FDA and from regulators in the United Kingdom, Canada, Bahrain, Mexico and Saudi Arabia. Another, similar vaccine from biotechnology company Moderna is poised to be greenlighted by the FDA this week after a meeting of an advisory panel.

Data from the randomized Pfizer-BioN-



Tech trial showed the two-dose vaccine to be 100 percent effective in preventing severe illness from covid-19.

But in roughly half the people who get the shot, it can produce modest side effects, including fever, headache, fatigue and pain at the injection site. That's typical for most vaccines.

'Absolutely normal': Covid vaccine side effects are no reason to avoid the shots, doctors say

This is not a flaw or a failure, vaccine experts hasten to point out. Side effects are a sign the immune system is kicking into gear, as intended. They're a feature and not a bug, to borrow the language of computer programmers.

"Things like fever or soreness at the injection site are normal, and actually they indicate that your body is reacting to the vaccine, which is what you want," said Ellen F. Foxman, an immunologist at the Yale School of Medicine. "That's a good thing."

Side effects were roughly the same in trial volunteers who got the vaccine and those who got a saltwater placebo.

"The immune system needs a better public-relations team, because it's just the immune system doing what it does," Offit said.

The newly authorized vaccine, like the

Moderna shot, uses a synthesized scrap of genetic information, called messenger RNA, that is wrapped in a protective fat layer to keep it from disintegrating. When it goes into cells in the muscle of the upper arm, it incites cellular machinery to manufacture a protein that mimics the shape of the spike protein that protrudes from the surface of the coronavirus.

At no point, in this type of vaccine, is the coronavirus itself or even part of the coronavirus injected into the body. The body, in effect, becomes the vaccine maker, creating a new protein that triggers an immune response. The immune system manufactures antibodies that can disable anything with structural features resembling this protein — including the coronavirus.

Such a vaccine has never been deployed before.

"It's very important to think about the whole picture," Foxman said. "The vaccine prevents a disease that we know has a lot of bad outcomes, right? Mortality is an outcome — death."

She added: "To me, it's very clear it's very beneficial to avoid all the known problems of getting COVID-19. I would take this vaccine in a minute if I were offered it."

FDA Approves Emergency Authorization for First Over The Counter At Home COVID Testing

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the first over-the-counter (OTC) fully at-home diagnostic test for COVID-19.

The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test is a rapid, lateral flow antigen test, a type of test that runs a liquid sample along a surface with reactive molecules. The test detects fragments of proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from a nasal swab sample from any individual 2 years of age or older.

"This authorization is a major milestone in diagnostic testing for COVID-19. By authorizing a test for over-the-counter use, the FDA allows it to be sold in places like drug stores, where a patient can buy it, swab their nose, run the test and find out their results in as little as 20 minutes," said FDA Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn, M.D. "As we continue to authorize additional tests for home use, we are helping expand Americans' access to testing, reducing the burden on laboratories and test supplies, and giving Americans more testing options from the

comfort and safety of their own homes."

The announcement of the first fully at-home OTC COVID-19 diagnostic test follows last month's authorization of the first prescription COVID-19 test for home use and last week's announcement of the first non-prescription test system, in which a lab processes the self-collected sample.

The FDA has authorized more than 225 diagnostic tests for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, including more than 25 tests that allow for home collection of samples, which are then sent to a lab for testing. The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test is the first COVID-19 test that can be used completely at home without a prescription.

"The FDA strongly supports innovation in test development and we have worked tirelessly with test developers to support the shared goal of getting more accurate and reliable tests to Americans who need them. Today is a promising step forward and we are eager to continue advancing additional

innovation in COVID-19 testing that the science supports," said Jeff Shuren, M.D., J.D., director of FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

"This test, like other antigen tests, is less sensitive and less specific than typical molecular tests run in a lab. However, the fact that it can be used completely at home and return results quickly means that it can play an important role in response to the pandemic."

Similar to other antigen tests, a small percentage of positive and negative results from this test may be false. Therefore, for patients without symptoms, positive results should be treated as presumptively positive until confirmed by another test as soon as possible. This is especially true if there are fewer infections in a particular community, as false positive results can be more common when antigen tests are used in populations where there is little COVID-19 (low prevalence).

The FDA reminds patients that all tests can experience false negative and false positive results. Individuals with positive results

should self-isolate and seek additional care from their health care provider. Individuals who test negative and experience COVID-like symptoms should follow up with their health care provider as negative results do not preclude an individual from SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test uses a mid-turbinate nasal swab (sample is collected further back than the usual nasal swab, but not as far back as nasopharyngeal swabs, which are only appropriate for use by a trained health care provider) to detect certain proteins of the virus known as antigens.

The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test correctly identified 96% of positive samples and 100% of negative samples in individuals with symptoms. In people without symptoms, the test correctly identified 91% of positive samples and 96% of negative samples.

The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test uses an analyzer that connects with a software application on a smartphone to help users perform the test and interpret results. Results are delivered in as

little as 20 minutes to individuals via their smartphone. The mobile application requires individuals to input their zip code and date of birth, with optional fields including name and e-mail address, and reports the results as appropriate to public health authorities to monitor disease prevalence. Ellume expects to produce more than three million tests in January 2021.

The FDA continues to work with test developers to expand access to COVID-19 testing and supports further development of COVID-19 tests that can be used completely at home.

The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation's food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.

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2020 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST/OK CHAPTER MEDIA AWARD WINNER

2020

In Memoriam

2020

Kroger, Delbert Eugene
9/12/57 1/1/20
Doyel, Darla Lea Anne
8/29/62 1/9/20
Johnson, Christopher Charles
8/26/61 1/14/20
Franklin, Ethel Mae
5/8/46 1/17/20
Sankey, Robert Henry
7/2/74 1/19/20
Lanigan, Lylith Faye
9/30/39 1/21/20
Hadley, Delores Oliver
9/7/40 1/22/20
Surveyor, Harley Dewayne
6/15/82 2/1/20
Medicine Bear, Nalisha Kaye
1/14/83 2/7/20
Falcon, Lydia Marie
11/29/76 2/10/20
Old Crow, Faren Gene
5/29/54 2/13/20
Black, Myrna Ruth
2/10/60 2/16/20
Medicine Bird, Kerwin Scott
12/9/65 2/20/20
Bates, Roy Holly
5/19/69 2/27/20
Chiefly, Larry Allen Sr.
6/6/55 3/4/20
Sankey, Calvin James
5/28/82 3/5/20
Younger, Helen Bates
9/13/35 3/7/20
Wood, Charles Lafoy
9/13/63 3/9/20
Davis, Edna Louetta
10/26/30 3/11/20
C`hair, Julia
10/23/59 3/13/20
Wise, Sammy
4/18/51 3/18/20
Romans, Jayda Lynn M.
7/27/80 3/19/20
Collins, Annie Sidonia
2/5/37 3/23/20
Twins, Joyce Marie
12/30/43 3/29/20
Seeger, Alice Marie
8/6/49 3/31/20
Birdshead, Kenneth Lloyd
9/20/65 4/3/20
Rouse, Winston Thomas Jr.
9/9/65 4/5/20
Maurer, Christopher Shane
8/18/88 4/11/20
Meely, Robert James
12/4/79 4/12/20
Moutassum, Mona Red Buffalo
11/7/44 4/12/20
Goodbear, Paula Kathryn
8/3/51 4/13/20
Pratt, William III
3/7/67 4/14/20
Tallbear, Malaina Sue
7/28/77 4/17/20
Adams, Shineesta Emily
12/18/59 4/20/20
Pawnee, Margaret
2/17/34 4/24/20
George, Hugh Allen
5/8/53 4/24/20
Black Owl, Edwina Nell
2/26/63 4/25/20
Meat, Suni Katheleen
6/1/89 4/30/20
Old Bear, Agnes
8/22/27 5/3/20
Tabor, Daryl George
11/29/70 5/5/20
Jones, Iwannah Lynn
1/2/63 5/8/20
Rhoads, Arlen Francis
1/18/53 5/9/20
Akeen, George Clay Jr.
2/17/49 5/21/20
Hicks, Belva J.
8/25/32 5/23/20
Prairie Chief, Linda Sue
9/25/48 5/23/20
Sagebark, Agnes Marie
1/10/62 5/24/20
Black Bear, James Jr.
2/7/43 5/27/20
Chouteau, Eugenia Mae
12/9/60 5/27/20
Niedo, Jannine Frances
5/31/67 5/30/20
Addison, Zella Marie
11/2/43 5/31/20
Williams, Clara Denise
5/4/65 6/1/20
Scabby, Robert Lee Jr.
1/8/53 6/1/20

Meyer, Mary Lynette
9/25/42 6/2/20
Pratt, Ataloea P.
10/30/49 6/7/20
Big Medicine, Joseph Jr.
5/16/50 6/10/20
Thunderbull, Larry Gene Sr.
4/29/46 6/11/20
George, Eddie Eugene
8/3/50 6/11/20
Howling Crane, James Anthony III
9/7/45 6/19/20
Ghezzi, William Sevenstar
5/29/98 6/25/20
Doughty, Norma Jean
8/26/54 6/26/20
Killsknight, Kompton Otto
10/15/91 6/26/20
Campbell, Helen Ann
8/1/52 6/28/20
Sagebark, David Ellis
2/8/59 6/30/20
Lamebull, William Max
7/29/77 7/6/20
Pricer, Florence
7/5/30 7/11/20
Kroger, Ruebin Jerome
5/27/56 7/13/20
Washee, John Enos III
2/18/69 7/14/20
Webster, Clarence Marvin Jr.
7/5/54 7/19/20
Roman Nose, Betty Jean Redbird
8/4/50 7/21/20
Easley, John William
6/26/49 7/24/20
Cochran, Richenda June
6/1/51 7/24/20
Galvan, Karen Sue
10/28/52 7/29/20
Buffalomeat, Verna Ann
8/11/62 8/3/20
Yellow Eyes, Felicia Michelle
1/2/81 8/13/20
Espindola, Evelyn Glanna
12/20/68 8/13/20
Goodblanket, Lahoma Marie
9/12/61 8/16/20
Coward, Elaine Shirley
12/20/49 8/17/20
Byrd, Sharon Ann
11/5/44 8/19/20
Whiteshirt, Amy Daun
3/4/84 8/21/20
Blevins, Isaiah Shamus
9/2/89 8/23/20
Richey, Ural Lee Jr.
6/10/71 8/23/20
Penn, Nellie
6/19/49 8/23/20
Canon, Joy Ellen
9/3/31 8/25/20
Reese, Ella Mae
2/18/44 8/27/20
Seeger, Esther
2/19/45 8/28/20
Smith, Richard Lloyd
11/2/57 8/28/20
Tall Bear, William D. Sr.
1/27/35 9/1/20
Whiteshirt, Virgil Jr.
10/4/53 9/5/20
Whiteshirt, Harriet Irene
12/1/57 9/8/20
Kodaseet, Deborah R.
5/5/56 9/9/20
Ramirez, Emily Ann Bushyhead
1/4/38 9/15/20
Spencer, Donna Grace
2/11/56 9/15/20
Harrison, Kyle Batiste
9/25/76 9/18/20
Pricer, Richard Charles Jr.
10/6/51 9/21/20
Bacon, Gregory Brian
5/7/65 9/21/20
Scott, Rosie Verjan
4/14/59 9/22/20
Franklin, Alfred Wilson Jr.
12/10/63 9/23/20
Wunderlich, Brenda Kay
2/24/59 9/23/20
Brown, Margaret
11/10/44 9/23/20
Adachi, David Keith
1/16/92 9/23/20
Raya, Danielle Renee
6/26/89 9/25/20
Johnny, Angela
9/21/70 9/27/20
Red Hat, Eugene
7/27/33 9/27/20
Franklin, Ramona Dawn
9/8/67 9/30/20

Friday-Calvillo, Mary Ann
8/23/52 9/30/20
Two Babies, Christopher Ray
3/5/83 10/2/20
Clark, Patsy Ruth
3/11/36 10/5/20
Williams, Kevin Francis
8/10/65 10/6/20
Scroggins, Elizabeth Jeannette
10/2/59 10/7/20
Uranga, Gloria
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Sweezy, Mary K.
7/1/29 10/9/20
Harding, Geraldine Mae
4/6/40 10/14/20
Warner, Alisha Emma
6/22/84 10/17/20
Tiger, Brian Anthony
2/24/69 10/20/20
Limp, Minerva Joyce
8/17/90 10/22/20
Fisher, Carrie Ann
7/19/70 10/25/20
Hicks, Cora
2/14/51 10/27/20
Natseway, Raymond Lewis Jr.
8/14/59 10/28/20
Candy Fire, Dwayne
6/5/47 10/29/20
Brewer, Lee Michael
5/25/70 11/2/20
Sleeper, Ruby May
1/26/47 11/2/20
Bearshield, Leonard
10/1/55 11/3/20
Guillen, Marcus Deshawn
1/16/95 11/4/20
Rice, Carol A.
9/6/40 11/5/20
Williamson, Gaynell
9/13/59 11/7/20
Hidrogo, Anna Joyce
8/18/69 11/7/20
Enriquez, Melissa Yvonne Yvette
9/19/80 11/10/20
Stewart, Corrine Ruth
5/28/55 11/12/20
Gould, Myra Lynn
11/7/56 11/12/20
Allrunner, Frederic J.
9/21/36 11/13/20
Two Crow, Ramona Denise
2/20/79 11/18/20
Anderson, Kimberlyn Romita
12/25/65 11/18/20
Island, Ida Jean
5/10/55 11/19/20
Sleeper, Ruth Ann
9/15/48 11/19/20
West, John William
12/4/52 11/21/20
Cometsevah, James Frank
9/23/81 11/22/20
Wills, Marsha Sue
8/20/67 11/26/20
Harrison, Roberta Maye
5/16/36 11/27/20
Shawnee, Francis Lipton Sr.
9/29/54 11/27/20
Red Nose, Eugene James
8/21/47 11/28/20
Cordasco, Linda Kay
8/25/55 11/28/20
Nibbs, Theodore Raymond
1/15/53 11/29/20
Loneman, Jesse Rutherford
10/28/67 11/30/20
StandingWater, Carol
7/2/61 12/1/20
Hawk, Mary
4/5/45 12/2/20
Orange, Victor Robert
6/5/65 12/5/20
Maul, Mary Ellen
8/17/56 12/8/20
Red Cherries, Adolph
4/7/52 12/8/20
Hoof, Thomas Leroy Jr.
10/3/80 12/10/20
Franks-Charcoal, Elizabeth Hayden
2/8/32 12/11/20
Roman Nose, Joseph
10/5/46 12/12/20
Salazar, Martha Gretchen
8/8/51 12/13/20
White Crow, Jason Roy Sr.
1/19/74 12/15/20
Bacon, Richard Dewayne
9/4/57 12/19/20
Ramirez Victorio Alejandro
11/30/67 12/26/20
Miner, Leaf
12/14/88 12/29/20

HOW It Began 2020



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Governor Declares State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

(CONCHO, OK) It's a word everyone knows, COVID-19.

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 spreads across the United States, Cheyenne and Arapaho Country is not immune to the infection.

Recently two citizens of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have been hospitalized, one in Ponca City, Okla. with the other at In-tegris Hospital in Yukon, Okla. Both are on ventilators and as of the writing of this article, awaiting test results for COVID-19. Tests that will undoubtedly come back positive based on the two patients' symptoms.

On March 19, 2020 Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana declared a State of Emergency within the tribes as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Gov. Wassana had formed



HOW It Unfolded



Family holds onto hope while mother fights for her life after being diagnosed with COVID-19

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

... their grandma as their grandma. The hardest thing is you are alone in this. If they die from this, they die alone and you are not able to give them a funeral. This is serious, it is NOT the flu. "I'm sad and in response to being asked what was one message the world wants to read"

How Steve came into contact with the virus is still uncertain as a mystery but the facts and opinions the virus attacked Steve's father along with almost every account we reach about a person who became infected with COVID-19.

"My brother AJ came home on the 20th (March) and he wasn't feeling very good so he had gone to the clinic here in Nowata. They said he had a sinus infection and he asked if he could be around his room and bed, and they said yes," Tom said.

By March 24 Steve began to show symptoms. Fever, a cough, and said he had had a headache for three days. On March 25 Steve went to his primary doctor who tested him for the flu, a strep throat negative, and the diagnosis ended up being bronchitis. They gave her medicine and sent her home.

"I'm here, my mom died and I'm here, exhibiting all the symptoms of COVID-19 getting worse with each passing day. The last thing I saw was my mother."

SHINE ADAMS, COVID-19 / by



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe receives CARES Act funding



Topping off the last beam for the new Watonga Hotel and Convention Center



Mitigating Public Health Measures in Cheyenne and Arapaho Country



STIMULUS BILL

continued from pg. 1

Low-Income Household Water Emergency Assistance Program (\$19 million)

Sets aside approximately \$19 million for Tribes to carry out activities under a Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program.

Education (\$552+ million)

Provides a \$409 million dollars transfer to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) from the Department of Education to distribute to BIE K-12 schools and Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) for COVID-19 mitigation and distance learning costs; and

Directs \$143 million to TCUs, Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions, Alaska Native-Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions, and Asian American-Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions.

Fisheries (\$30 million)

Provides \$30 million for Tribal fisheries across the U.S.

Child Care

Provides \$10 billion in supplemental funding for the Department of Health and Human Services early childhood programs, from which participating Tribes will receive allocations to cover operating costs, reopening costs, personnel costs, and COVID-19 mitigation costs.

New FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Benefit

Provides financial aid to those who have lost a loved one due to COVID-19. Tribal governments with COVID-19 emergency or

major disaster emergency declaration will not have to pay a cost-share to carry-out this provision.

CDFIs and Minority Depository Institutions:

Provides \$12 billion in targeted emergency investments to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) to help borrowers and communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Directs \$3 billion in emergency assistance to CDFIs through the CDFI Fund, of which \$1.2 billion will be targeted to minority lending institutions.

The Fiscal Year 2021 funding package reauthorized two critical Tribal health and safety-net program and provided funding for important federal Indian programs, including:

Special Diabetes Program for Indians

Reauthorizes the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) through FY2023, the longest SDPI reauthorization in a decade.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Reauthorizes the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program through FY2021.

Indian Health Service (\$6.2 billion)

Provides \$6.236 billion for the Indian Health Service, a 3 percent increase above last year.

Includes new funding to staff Tribal health facilities and to increase mental health, alcohol and sub-

stance abuse, preventive care and purchased and referred care programs.

Public Health (\$22 million)

Rejects the Trump Administration's attempt to defund the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country program, the CDC's largest annual investment in Tribal public health; and

Increases funding for the program to \$22 million; and

Requires the CDC Director to develop – in consultation with Tribes – written guidelines on best practices for delivery of technical assistance to Tribes and improve Tribal access to CDC programs.

Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder Treatment Resources (\$87 million)

Includes \$2.5 million for IHS's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program, an increase of \$500,000 above last year;

Provides \$21 million to continue SAMHSA Tribal Behavioral Health Grant Program;

Sets aside \$50 million within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations to address opioid and substance use disorders in their communities; and

Provides \$11 million to support Tribal SAMHSA grants for medication-assisted treatment.

Department of the Interior Tribal Programs (\$3.4 billion)

Provides \$3.397 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and BIE, a 5 percent increase above last year;

Includes \$1.7 million in new funding within the bud-

gets of BIA and the National Park Service for the Indian Youth Service Corps; and

Includes \$500,000 in new funding for BIA to implement Udall's newly enacted Native American Business Incubators Act to support Native entrepreneurs.

Indian Arts and Crafts Act Enforcement (\$3.5 million)

Provides \$3.5 million within Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement to work with the Indian Arts and Crafts Board to combat international trafficking of counterfeit arts and crafts and to conduct criminal investigations of alleged violations of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act.

Native Languages (\$16+ million)

Continues \$3 million in Department of Interior funding to support Native language instruction and immersion;

Increases funding for Native American language programs to \$13 million for the Administration for Native American's Native American Language programs, including no less than \$5 million for the Esther Martinez programs; and

Increases funding by \$500,000 for Native language grants at the Department of Education.

Higher Education (\$208+ million)

Increases Department of the Interior funding to support Tribal colleges and universities to \$153.5 million;

Increases Department of Education funding to support Tribal colleges and universities to \$38 million;

Increases funding to \$16.5 million for the National Science Foundation's Tribal college and university program; and

Continues strong Tribal

college and university 1994 Land Grant Institution programs at the USDA.

Education Construction (\$284 million)

Continues strong support for addressing construction and maintenance backlogs at the BIE by providing over \$264 million; and

Includes \$15 million in new funding to address facilities needs at Tribal colleges and universities.

VAWA, MMIW, & Public Safety (\$541 million)

Provides \$449 million for Tribal public safety and justice programs at the Department of the Interior, including—

\$3 million to support Tribal implementation of the special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction authorities restored to them in the 2013 VAWA reauthorization, \$2 million specifically dedicated to investigation of MMIW cold cases,

\$2.5 million to improve MMIW and human trafficking response training, and

\$4.77 million for special initiatives to improve MMIW evidence collection and investigations; and

Provides \$92+ million within the Department of Justice to support Tribal public safety efforts, including—

\$3 million to support Tribal access to federal law enforcement databases, and

\$4 million to support Tribal implementation of the special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction authorities restored to Tribes in the 2013 VAWA reauthorization.

Victim Resources (\$100+ million)

Continues to support direct Tribal access to federal funding for victims of crime by including a 5% set-aside for Tribes within the Crime

Victim Fund allocation, resulting in \$100+ million for victim services going directly to Native communities.

Housing programs (\$825 million)

Provides \$825 million in total for Native American Housing programs, \$225 million above the president's budget request; and

Includes \$5 million for the Tribal HUD-VASH Program for rental assistance for Native American veterans that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

"638" Contracting & Compacting

Fully funds contract support cost requirements;

Includes new indefinite appropriations for IHS and BIA to fully fund requirements for Tribal leases as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and

Requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services to undertake Tribal consultation to develop long term solutions to ensure full funding of Tribal leases and improve budget certainty for Tribes.

Food Sovereignty

Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to update Congress on its efforts to engage with Tribes to kickstart participation in the Tribal Self-Determination demonstration program for food procurement for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), a provision Udall championed in the 2018 Farm Bill; and

Requires a report detailing USDA's plans to increase the amount and variety of traditional foods including wild salmon, caribou, reindeer and elk for FDPIR.

DEB HAALAND

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America's National Parks and the National Native American Law Student Association.

Many of Haaland's colleagues in Congress also had rallied behind her. In mid-November, more than 50 House Democrats penned a letter to the Biden transition team backing her for the post.

On Wednesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined in, saying Haaland "knows the territory," and if Biden nominated her, "he will have made an excellent choice."

Haaland was chosen for the post over former Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor, Taos Pueblo, and two U.S. senators from New Mexico: Tom Udall, who is retiring, and Martin Heinrich. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico was offered the job but turned it down, according to the Hill.

Udall issued a statement Thursday congratulating Haaland and voicing his confidence in her leadership.

"Congresswoman Haaland is fully qualified to lead the Department of the Interior — through her service in the Congress, to the state of New Mexico and to Indian Country, and through her lived experience," he said. "I know it will be significant and meaningful for Native Americans, especially Native women, to see Secretary Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, leading the department that is tasked with meeting many of our responsibilities to Tribes and managing inherently Indigenous land."

Haaland has been cited

saying she would accept a nomination as Interior secretary, including in an October interview with Indian Country Today.

"I think it's nice that people are thinking about me. And of course, if I ever had an opportunity to step up and do good work for this district, for the state of New Mexico, for our country, I would always be proud to do that," Haaland said.

In her first term in Congress, Haaland has held leadership positions on a number of committees, currently serving as vice chair of the Committee on Natural Resources and chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. She also sits on the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples, the House Armed Services Committee, the Subcommittee on Readiness, and the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

She previously worked as head of New Mexico's Democratic Party, as tribal administrator and as an administrator for an organization providing services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Born to a Marine veteran father and a Navy veteran mother, Haaland describes herself as a single mother who sometimes had to rely on food stamps. She says she is still paying off student loans after college and law school for herself and college for her daughter.

It could also further deplete, at least temporarily, the narrow majority Democrats maintain in the House. Biden has already selected several lawmakers from the chamber, including Lou-

isiana Rep. Cedric Richmond and Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge, to serve in his administration.

Interior's broad authority includes managing federal relations with tribes, administering tens of millions of acres of land and mineral rights held in trust for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, running national parks and making decisions affecting millions of miles of U.S. lands and waterways, wildlife, endangered species, and oil and gas and mining.

Biden, who has pledged to pick a diverse leadership team, said at a Native candidate forum in January that he would nominate and appoint people who "look like the country they serve, including Native Americans."

The pick breaks a 245-year record of non-Native officials, mostly male, serving as the very top federal official over Indian affairs in a federal government that worked to dispossess them of their land and, until recently, assimilate them into White culture.

Biden has promised the nation's largest effort yet to curb the oil, gas and coal emissions that are causing the rapid deterioration of the climate, and Interior would play an important part in that.

The president-elect has been methodically filling the posts in his Cabinet, adding North Carolina environmental official Michael Regan as his nominee to lead the EPA. Biden introduced former South Bend, Indiana, mayor Pete Buttigieg earlier this week as his transportation secretary and announced Thursday that former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm was his nominee for energy secretary.

OBITUARIES

Gary Lee Worthington

Gary Lee Worthington (Kiowa Name: "Red Cloud"), 51, was born on Jan. 27, 1969 in Okmulgee, Okla. to M. Wayne Worthington and Francine (Doyebi) Worthington. Gary passed away on Dec. 10, 2020 at Norman Regional Hospital in Norman, Okla.

Gary graduated from El Reno High School with the Class of 1988. He attended the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1991. He attended Haskell Indian Nations University from 1991 through 1993.

Gary worked as the inventory receiving clerk at the Lucky Star Casino from 2005 until his passing.

Gary was a member of the Kiowa Gourd Clan, Rolling Thunder OK, and the Kiowa Tiah Piah Society. Gary loved to travel and enjoyed participating in the Rolling Thunder P.O.W. and M.I.A demonstration ride in Washington D.C. for many years.

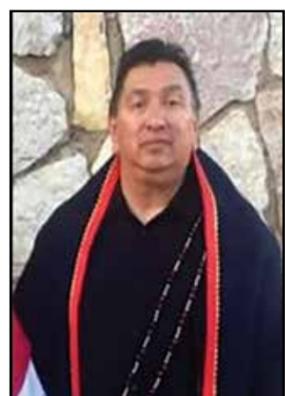
Gary was a very patriotic man who loved and advocated for veterans. He assisted disabled veterans at nursing homes and made sure that Christmas wreaths were placed on Native American veteran graves at various tribal cemeteries in Oklahoma. Gary's love for veterans came from a long line of veterans within his own family including, his father, grandfather, and numerous uncles.

Gary loved fishing and collecting guns and knives.

He enjoyed being with his friends, family members, and his companion, Tracy, with whom he shared many adventures. Gary was very proud of his niece, Janie Worthington and his nephew, Asa Worthington. He often brought up their accomplishments in conversations with others.

As a person, Gary was kind and generous. He would give the shirt off his back and always made attempts to gift his friends and family with things. Sometimes, you may have no idea where those things came from, but it was from Gary. He loved making everyone feel good, especially his friends and family.

Gary is survived by his companion, Tracy Rutz of the home; his mother, Francine Worthington of El Reno, one brother J. An dele Worthington and his wife, Hope of Carnegie, Okla., two sisters, Karen Birding-ground Goes Ahead and her husband, Dana of Billings, ont., Chawee Ellis of N.M., one uncle, Charles Worthington and his wife, Ann of Bessie, Okla., one aunt, Carol Doyebi of Anadarko, Okla., one nephew, Asa Worthington of Carnegie, Okla., four nieces, Janie Worthington of Carnegie, Christian Goes Ahead Lopez of Missoula, Mont., Gabrielle Goes Ahead of Billings, Mont., Elizabeth LeFlore of N.M., fourteen cousins, Christopher Burch of Carnegie, Frankie Doyebi of El Reno, Jason Doyebi



of El Reno, Thomas Doyebi of El Reno, Jay Dee Doyebi of El Reno, Michelle Doyebi Thunderball of El Reno, KayCee Doyebi of Thomas, Okla., Crystal Doyebi of El Reno, Adell Doyebi of Anadarko, Jerrolyn Doyebi of Anadarko, D. J. Bearden of Orlando, Fla., Deanne Keenum and her husband, Jason of Tanner, Ala., Sarah Osborn and her husband, Will of Tuttle, Okla., John Worthington and his wife, Hannah of Kingsville, Texas.

Gary is preceded in death by his father, M. Wayne Worthington; paternal grandparents, John and Velda Worthington; maternal grandparents, Hugh and Della Doyebi; uncles, Frankie Doyebi, Bruce Doyebi, Jerry Doyebi; aunts, Millie Sage Doyebi, TeeCee Doyebi, Tommie L. Doyebi, Patricia Bearden; nephew, Quinn Butler; cousins, Raymond Ace Butler, Nathaniel Butler, Francis Doyebi Sankey, Jamie Burch, Robert Burch. Graveside services were held Dec. 15, 2020 at the Carnegie Cemetery in Carnegie, Okla., officiated by Gerald Haunpo.

OBITUARIES

Adolph Redcherries

Adolph Redcherries (Cheyenne Name: Aeno'hoeso - Swift Hawk) passed from this life on Dec. 8, 2020 at the Veteran's Center in Oklahoma City, at the age of 68. He was born on April 7, 1952 in Clinton, Okla. to parents Frank and Eleanor (Bullcoming) Redcherries.

He came from a long line of chiefs on his father's side, a direct descendant of Northern Cheyenne Chief Littlewolf who lead the Cheyenne back to back to their homeland from Fort Reno in Oklahoma back to the reservation where they now reside in Lane Deer, Montana. His Southern Cheyenne side comes from Chief Bull Coming Up.

Adolph attended school at Seiling, Okla. On Aug. 27, 1970, Adolph was enlisted into the United States Army, where he would go on to attain the rank of Private First Class, and earn the National Defense Service Medal, before being honorably discharged on June 23, 1971. When he returned from service, Adolph moved to Busby, Montana and again to Lane Deer, Montana. While at Lane Deer, Adolph studied at Dull Knife Memorial College and would go on to be a part of the first graduating class. He would then return to Oklahoma, moving to Woodward and eventually back to Seiling. During this time, he married Linda Meza at Woodward. Once his health began to fade, Adolph moved to the VA Center in Clinton.

Adolph was a talented artist, and when he was not creating, he was instructing others. He taught the Bald Eagle Paint for the Sundance to many including Lance All Runner, Choutay Her Many Horses, Lindsay Harris, Donald Bullcoming, Jr., Wylan Buffalomeat, William (Berk) Buffalomeat, DJ Moses, and many others. He was a member of the American Indian Movement and participated in the longest walk out occupation of Wounded Knee in the 1970s, where he stood up for Indian Rights. He was a participant of the Cheyenne Sundance for which he pierced on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, and a member of the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma Color Guard at Watonga, Oklahoma. He was a member of the Native American Church and a member of the Latter-Day Saints church. Adolph enjoyed listening to 70s music, drawing, painting, and reading.

Adolph is preceded in death by his parents Frank and Elanor (Bullcoming) Redcherries; wife Linda Meza; uncle, and namesake, Adolph (Rock) Redcherries; brother Franklin Redcherries; sister Rose Marie Redcherries; sister Lenora Lafountain; nephew Lindsay James Harris; niece Angela Redcherries; niece Shana Redcherries; and many other cousins, nephew, nieces, and grandkids.

Though he never had children of his own, Adolph was known to say "Nobody can say I don't have children, ALL my nieces and nephews are MY children."

Adolph is survived by his sister Norene Harris and husband Ron of Billings, Montana; brother Theodore James Redcherries of Clinton, Oklahoma; sister Renecia Youngbull and husband Braveheart of Billings; a niece which he claimed as his daughter, Tiffany Lafountain of Seiling, Oklahoma; a nephew which he claimed as his son, Robert Island of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; granddaughter, Erin Eileen Harris-Pedro of Billings; special grandchildren MJ, Precious, Luvlee, and Frank Montgomery of Seiling; special grandkids Jeremiah, Jory, Tehya, Micah, Ryder, Ahniv Youngbull of Billings; special grandkids Christopher James Ferrari of Carson City, Nevada; special grandkids Lillian, Neveah, Gabriel Pollock of El Reno, Oklahoma; special grandkid Psalm Lee Whitney; special grandkid Enoch Redcherries; special grandkids Amina and Francesca Tapia; grandchildren Benjamin and Keoni Bighorn, and Canyon Fortner; nieces and nephews

Jonah, Jillian and Ashley Redcherries. Becky Harris, Anthony Lafountain Jr, Tammy Lafountain-Fortner, Kermit and Jimmy Lafountain Tina Lynn Lafountain. Marvin and Franklin Redcherries. Laverna Elkshoulder, Verna Rivas, Cheryl Limpy, Ida Onebear, Koan Kommas, Ramona, Irene, and Lattona Bullcoming, Carol Gordon. Steve and Dwight Whiteshield. Norene (Sunshine) RedHat. Sissy, Fran-nie, Kathy, Willy, Tommy, Peanuts, Ronald, Solomon Bullcoming. Barry and Maurine Bullcoming. Dana, Tommilyn, Corry, Jace Bullcoming. Kenny and Carla Daniels. Donald Ray and and Challis Island. Funston, Rosalie, Patricia, and Bobbie Jo Whiteman. Valencina Whiteman and Vivian Lime. James Eric and Vera Dennison. Rachel, Sara Jo, George and Jamie Webster. Meredith, Marcus, and Sally Woundedeeye. Bo, Nicole, and Charlie Sankey. April, Ruben, Bullet Watan. Sonny, Cedric, Emma, Barry, Chereesa Whitebuffalo. Plus many more cousins, nieces and nephews from the Redcherries, Bullcoming, Runsabove, Posey, Tallbull, Chavez, Whiteman, and Walters families. ; special friends Keith Island, Bennie Buffalo, Luther Red Hat, Ronald Red Hat, Kingsley Fan Man, Chet All Runner, Jimmy Little Coyote, Wylan Buffalomeat, Berk Buffalomeat, Gilbert Red Hat; and many more friends and loved ones.



Wake Service were held Dec. 13 at the Redinger Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Services were held Dec. 14 at the Redinger Funeral Home Chapel, followed by a burial at the Cantonment Cemetery in Canton, Okla.



Jason Roy Whitecrow Sr.

Jason Roy Whitecrow Sr, 46 year old resident of Oklahoma City, passed from this life on Dec. 15, 2020. Jason was born Jan. 19, 1974 to LaFreda White Buffalo and DeWayne Whitecrow in Okeene, Okla. He attended Taft Middle School and Riverside Indian School. Jason made his home in Oklahoma City where he worked as a roofer and other odd jobs. In his spare time, Jason loved music, drawing, and being with family.

He is preceded in death by his father DeWayne Whitecrow, grandfather John White Buffalo, grandmother Phoebe White Buffalo, grandfather Woodrow White-

crow, grandmother Fern Harrington, great-grandmother Bertha Little Coyote, great-grandmother Eula Hill, brother Joseph Allen Whitecrow, brother Sterlyn Whitecrow.

Jason is survived by his son Jason Roy Whitecrow Jr of Oklahoma City; four daughters Samantha Whitecrow of Oklahoma City, Ashley Whitecrow of Guthrie, OK, Ansliegh Porter of Seminole, OK, and Jaylyn Whitecrow of Oklahoma City; mother LaFreda White Buffalo of Oklahoma City; sister Tammy Whitecrow of Oklahoma City; aunt Bertha Colleen Whitecrow of Kingfisher, OK; eight

grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and a host of friends.

Wake services were held Dec. 21 at the Redinger Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Services were held Dec. 22 at the Redinger Funeral Home Chapel, followed by a burial at the Cantonment Indian Mennonite Cemetery.

Durwood Randolph Snead

Randy was born Jan. 18, 1943 at Sobol, a member of the Choctaw and Coushatta Nations. Raised in Talihina, he graduated from Talihina High School where he was an outstanding football player. While serving in the Navy one of his memorable games was playing quarterback against Roger Staubach. A veteran of the U. S. Navy, he served two tours in Vietnam. He received a bachelor's degree in Sociology at Northeastern University and mas-

ter's degree in Finance from Central State University. He sang in the choir both in high school and college. Randy's career was in construction finance and worked for the Housing Authority. A man of prayer, he participated in the Cheyenne ceremonies.

He was an avid fan of baseball and softball and enjoyed watching his son and later his grandchildren play; and was a hardcore Sooner fan. Hunting and fishing were also hobbies.

Elizabeth Charcoal-Franks

Elizabeth Charcoal Franks died Dec. 11, 2020, at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Elizabeth was born Feb. 8, 1932 in Concho, Okla., and was raised in Geary. Before retiring she worked as a nurse's aid and was an avid reader.

Elizabeth is survived by her son Frankie Ellis Charcoal of Rio Rancho, N.M., 15 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Her husband, John Franks; father Francis Charcoal Sr., mother Mattie (Blind) Charcoal and siblings, Michael, Ronnie and Marcia Franks preceded her in death.

Graveside services were held Dec. 18 at the Concho Cemetery in Concho, Okla.



Mary Ellen Rednose Maul

Mary Ellen Rednose Maul (Shell Woman) died Dec. 8, 2020, at AMG Specialty Hospital in Oklahoma City. Mary was born Aug. 17, 1956 in Okarche, Okla., to Allen B. Rednose and Margaret Ann (Burgess) Rednose. She lived in El Reno most of her life and taught at the Concho Head Start Program. She also was a Langston University USDA representative.

In 1977 Mary was joined in marriage to Thomas E. Maul Sr. and unto this marriage was born Nicole, Thomas II and Jason Maul and from these three beautiful children was born 15 grandchildren.

Mary enjoyed being with her grandchildren and going to the casino.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Nicole Maul of Oklahoma City, Thomas and Charleta Maul of El Reno, and Jason and Joanna Maul of Oklahoma City, sisters, Reba Tisdale and Norma Yarbrough both of Kingfisher and Betsy YellowEagle Noah of Broken Bow, 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, along with numerous nieces and nephews and her close friend Diane Debrow from El Reno.

Her parents, Allen and Margaret (Burgess) Rednose; and sisters, Reba Red-



nose and Martha Rednose, preceded her in death.

Visitation service was held Dec. 11 at the Huber Benson Funeral Home in El Reno, Okla. Graveside service was held Dec. 12 at the Kingfisher City Cemetery, officiated by Gerald Panama.

Victorio 'Vic' Alejandro Ramirez

Victorio (Vic) Alejandro Ramirez died Dec. 26, 2020, at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital in Yukon, Okla.

Vic was born Nov. 30, 1967 in El Reno, one of five children of Joe "Nick" Ramirez, Jr. and Emily Ann (Bushyhead) Ramirez. He joined the Marine Corps in 1986 after graduating from El Reno High School, serving in the legendary 1st Battalion 9th Marines, "The Walking Dead." He did two overseas tours aboard the USS Tripoli and later, the USS Tarawa. He was a Marine's Marine, a hard charging "devil dog" with a love for his fellow Marines. He earned the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with a Bronze Star for second award for his tours overseas. After his military service, he worked for many years in construction and welding. Victor was most recently employed in the I.T. Department at Lucky Star Casino. His dedication was evident in all his tasks

and his laughter was contagious as he made work fun for all his crew.

He was a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and Sacred Heart Church.

While serving in the military, Vic discovered a love for the game of soccer. He held a coaching license "D," coaching high school and competitive teams, as he became a beloved mentor to many young people. He coached the teams of his children in the Canadian Valley Soccer League, and even helped with the construction of the 12U fields at Adams Park.

On June 11, 1998, he married Carla Diana Grulkey who survives him.

He is also survived by a son, Nicolas Ramirez of El Reno; daughter, Remington Ramirez of Alva; siblings and their spouses, Veleah Snow, Jerrie and Trey Oglesby, Anita and Tony Greenwalt, and Freddy Ramirez, all of El Reno; grandson, Ryker; and many nieces, nephews,



and cousins, all who, along with friends and co-workers, will miss his sense of humor, sometimes incessant teasing, and that booming, contagious laugh that could turn any situation into a moment of bonding and connection at the deepest of levels.

His parents, Emily Bushyhead Ramirez and Nick Ramirez preceded him in death in September 2020.

Visitation service was held Dec. 30 in the Benson Memorial Chapel in El Reno, Okla. Graveside service with military honors was held Dec. 31 at the El Reno Cemetery with Deacon Lloyd Menz officiating.

Joseph 'Joe' RomanNose

Joseph 'Joe' RomanNose was born to Alfred 'Lefty' RomanNose and Pauline Strong on Oct. 4, 1946. He left this earth on Dec. 12 in Oklahoma City.

After the death of his mother, Joe was raised by his great-grandmother Rosa Paupa along with his siblings Alice Ruth (Johnston) Coffee and Hazel (Tallbear) Fuller. He grew up in Kingfisher where he attended school and enjoyed fishing and hunting.

After graduating from Kingfisher High School he joined the U.S. Army in 1967. While enlisted he fought in the Vietnam War and retired out in 1970. After the service he met and married Betty "Chick" Redbird. To this union was born three children, Alfred T. Roman-

Nose, Allen Emon RomanNose and Josetta Pauline RomanNose.

Joe worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma for many years where he retired. He also retired from Wal-Mart in Kingfisher, Okla.

Joe loved his family and enjoyed helping others.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents Alred 'Lefty' RomanNose and Pauline Strong, his sisters Alice Ruth (Johnston) Coffee and Hazel (Tallbear) Fuller, his wife Betty 'Chick' Redbird RomanNose and son Allen Emon RomanNose.

He is survived by his son Alfred RomanNose and Carment Yellowface of Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, his daughter Josetta RomanNose of Kingfisher, four grand-



children Jomita Jo RomanNose, Alenya, Brandon Jr., and Elijah Wermey and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind words of encouragement and prayers.

Wake services were held Dec. 16 at the Sanders Funeral Service Chapel in Kingfisher, Okla. Funeral services were held Dec. 17 at the Concho Cemetery in Concho, Okla.

Randy is survived by his son, John Belymule of Mustang; sister, Nadine and husband, Jim; and granddaughters, Summer Dawn, Autumn and Noel, and many nieces and nephews

His father, Dewey Snead (Choctaw); mother, Lydia Robinson Snead (Coushatta);

brothers, Russell D. Snead and Gerald Snead; sister, Sylvia Snead; son, Durwood Randolph Snead Jr, daughter Carolyn Denise Snead preceded him in death.

Services were held Wednesday at the Concho Cemetery under the direction of Huber-Benson Funeral Home, El Reno.



Durwood Randolph Snead of Mustang died Dec. 19, 2020, at Pawhuska Hospital in Pawhuska.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday
Dominik Hart
10 yrs.old
Jan. 4

Love your family. Harts,
Joes & Whitemans



Happy Birthday!
Brody Hart, 15 yrs old
Dec. 28

Love your family, Harts, Joes
& Whitemans.

Happy Birthday Wishes to
my Siblings:
Gene Levi Morton,
December 14th
Beverly Morton Brown,
December 16th
Samuel Morton, III,
December 18th (RIP)
Love you All!
Christine Morton & Family



Belated Birthday Wishes to
Nebi:
Dara Lynn Franklin,
December 2nd
Love you!
Christine Morton & Family



The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Health Education Department want to inform you about some important information, if you smoke or vape. We know that COVID-19 can attack your lungs. So your plan should be to keep them strong by kicking the addiction for good! Please visit 1-800-QUIT-NOW to start.

When you smoke or vape, your fingers touch your lips. This raises the chance that the virus will spread from your hand to your mouth.

Sharing smoking products with others can put you at risk for getting COVID-19.

If you smoke, you may already have lung prob-



lems, which make you more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.

If you're a former smoker or vape user, you probably have a lower risk of complications from COVID-19 than current users because your lungs heal after you quit

smoking. The inside of your lungs call cilia, begin to regrow and heal quickly once you quit smoking.

For more information please call us at 405-422-2626 or email rotallbear@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov.

Thank You



Bailey Hooten still has a long road to recovery with many more appointments and possible procedures ahead of her however Bailey is

so happy to be home! A huge "Thank you" to everyone who donated, offered prayers and compassionate acts of kindness; especially to OU Children's Hospital and her medical team for the excellent care they rendered. It is by Faith and the Grace of God, Bailey is home. From our family to yours, God bless and Happy New Year.

Bailey Grace Hooten

is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Her parents are Candace Stinson and Cody Hooten and granddaughter of Tonya Moore. Bailey is a 6th grader at Canton Public Schools and has a twin brother, Caden, and an older brother, Cody Jr. The family of Bailey wants to thank those who donated and offered prayers for her as she continues to recover.

New Year Resolutions

Tara Conway, MS, RD, LD, CDE
Jenna Crider, RD, LD, IBCLC
C&A Diabetes Wellness Program

With 2021 upon us and 2020 almost a memory, many of us are thinking about our New Year resolutions. For many, New Year goals come and then are forgotten within a month. Leaving us feeling like we failed yet another year at goal setting. Making small changes that can help us in big ways is a good starting place and before you know it you'll be reflecting on how you stuck with healthy adjustments to your day. A resolution is another term for being determined to do or not do something.

Here are five things to consider adding to your determination list.

Gratefulness: If 2020 has taught us anything, it's to be grateful. It is very real to us that loved ones, jobs, money, security can be shifted or taken when we least expect it. Each day that we are alive, take notice of what we have in our lives and having an attitude of gratitude. Studies show that gratefulness improves sleep, improves relationships, brings more feelings of happiness, and increases mental strength.

Improve sleep hygiene: Scientific research makes clear that sleep is essential at any age. Sleep powers the mind, restores the body, and fortifies virtually every system in the body. But how much sleep do we really need in order to get these benefits?

- Newborns (0-3 months): 14-17 hours each day
- Infants (4-11 months): 12-15 hours
- Toddlers (1-2 years): 11-14 hours
- Preschoolers (3-5): 10-13 hours
- School age children (6-13): 9-11 hours
- Teenagers (14-17): 8-10 hours
- Younger adults (18-25): 7-9 hours
- Adults (26-64): 7-9 hours
- Older adults (65+): 7-8 hours
- Try shutting down elec-

tronics one hour before shut-eye and creating a relaxing sleep environment.

Move more - Physical activity is anything that gets your body moving. According to the 2018 *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*, 2nd Edition, adults need to do two types of physical activity each week to improve their health— aerobic activity and muscle strengthening.

150 minutes/week (three times a week for 30 min) of aerobic activity. This is anything that gets your heart beating at a faster rate.

Two days a week of muscle strengthening activity

If you don't have time for the gym, walk around your neighborhood, walk during lunch break, push-ups and sit ups at home.

Drink less sugar. Sugary drinks are a leading cause to excess weight. Pop, fruit juice, sports drinks, sweet tea can be tempting. They taste good and it's no wonder our brains crave them! But our bodies only need so many calories a day to function and these empty calories are likely to get stored as fat. Simple sugars cause our blood sugar to spike and then fall quickly, leaving us to feel tired and in need of more sugar to wake us up. If sugary drinks are your thing and you hate to think of parting with them, try small steps. Cut back slowly, maybe one less a day/week and keep going. Set a longterm goal of one a day, and eventually you may choose not to have one every day. Each day make an intentional choice.

Eat more plant foods, fruits, veggies, legumes, whole grains, nuts and seeds.

There are numerous benefits to eating more of these foods. To start, we get better nutrition, which means our bodies get the substances they are looking for to operate at its best. This will give us more energy, less sickness

and a clear mind.

Our gut will be healthier with plant foods with fiber and less toxins as well as healthy blood sugar, a happy heart and waistline.

If you don't currently eat many fruits or vegetables slowly add them in. Try with one a day at first, then get to one a meal. Eating them raw will take less time to prepare and is easy to pack in your lunch. Experiment with different cooking methods to suit your taste.

Have a happy and healthy 2021. Be kind and encouraging to yourself.

Taking care of you, thinking about what you are putting in your body and taking time to be physically active is the ultimate act of self-care. You deserve it! You are worth it!

Remember your hand-washing techniques, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Remember to wash all surfaces daily and don't forget to clean your cell phone, doorknobs, car handles and steering wheel and don't forget to wear a face mask.

For a personalized weight management plan that meets your individual needs, consult a registered dietitian either at the Diabetes Wellness Center or the Clinton Service Unit.

For more information and tips on health and wellness contact Tara Conway at the Diabetes Wellness Program 405-422-7685 or toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27685, or by email tconway@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov or contact Jenna Crider 405-422-7656, toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27656 or by email, jcrider@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov.

Sources: *Psychology Today* April 2015, *Sleepfoundation.org*, *CDC.gov/PhysicalActivity*, *heart.org*, *eatingwell.com*/
The Health Benefits of Eating a Plant-based Diet and How to Get Started.

NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH



Bat Shunatona



Leroy Downs Jr.

Are You Getting the Most Health Care Benefits that Native Americans Are Entitled To?

65 and Over:
Low Income Subsidiary (LIS) could eliminate the cost of the Native American Part D-Prescription Drug if Native American uses the Indian Health Clinic for their pharmacy needs, one could get \$40 reduction off the monthly Part B.

Under 65:
If Native American qualifies for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), tribal members get no cost Health Insurance

Native American Health will be holding short meetings about Native American healthcare and the benefits you are NOT RECEIVING! Call For Times at 405.487.7011 Leave a Call Back Number. Refreshments will be Served
na-healthinsurance.com

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Create change.
Be the rising tide that lifts all boats.



"A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats" - John F. Kennedy

What JFK meant by this quote is that a good economy should benefit all participants. And that a good economic policy should be one that lifts everyone up as an incoming tide does to all boats.

Many of us enrolled tribal citizens living out of district feel that we have been left out of the benefits and services that should be offered to us all. Out of District citizens are counted in order for the Tribes to receive grants and funds and yet we hear too often we don't qualify since we live out of district.

We have a choice to make. What kind of Nation do we wish to be. Do we want to be a Nation in which only certain ones receive the benefits and services that the Tribes offer. Or do we want to be a Nation that works for the common good and provides opportunity for all?

Are you an enrolled tribal citizen living out of district and feel you are not represented and left out of tribal services? If you are, then please consider joining the Cheyenne-Arapaho Out of District Facebook Group. We are organizing, and preparing for the 2021 Tribal Elections.

We want to support candidates who will support us, the Out of District tribal citizens.

Search for us via Facebook and request to join by searching: **Cheyenne-Arapaho Out of District Tribal Members Group**

To receive a voter registration form you can email, okiendnd43@yahoo.com

Together we can be the change that lifts all boats

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COVID-19 VACCINES

continued from pg. 1

Even with the promising news of an end to the spread of COVID-19 by vaccination, there remains a level of hesitancy and mistrust surrounding the vaccinations.

“It is understandable that many people have fears or concerns about the COVID vaccines that have been recently approved and these concerns may be the result of mis- and dis-information that has been promoted by many, including some in the highest offices of our federal government,” Derrell Cox, Ph.D. said. Dr. Cox is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ COVID Task Force.

“It is important to know that these vaccines went through all of the safety and efficacy trials that all new medications and vaccines are required to go through. They have also benefitted from more than 65,000 courageous and generous people all over the world who have stepped up to participate in the clinical trials,” Dr. Cox said.

Dr. Cox is personally excited for the release of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and sees them as the path to returning to life before COVID-19.

“I believe in time, maybe six months or so, we will be able to begin returning to pre-COVID aspects of social and community life as a result of the vaccines. The latest polling among the general population indicates that around 70% of people are open to getting the vaccine, which is thought to be the minimum necessary for us to develop herd immunity,” Dr. Cox said.

One of the most common questions being asked healthcare providers as they



Tribal Elder Ron Starr receives his Pfizer vaccine at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Independent Living Center in Clinton, Okla. (Photos / Rosemary Stephens)



Tribal Elder Patricia Smothers receives the COVID-19 vaccination at the Independent Living Center. Smothers is also an Election Commissioner representing Arapaho District 3.

vaccinate individuals is can I stop wearing masks and distancing? For right now, while the vaccine will protect you from getting severe COVID-19, it may not prevent you from getting milder symptoms of COVID-19 and making others sick to the point of death. Until most, 70%-80% of the U.S. population is vaccinated, it is recommended to continue to wear masks, avoid indoor gatherings, continue to social distance and wash/sanitize your hands.

Native Youth Community Project Clinton Parent Drive Thru



(CLINTON, OK) COVID-19 has put a damper on the many programs that host events throughout the year for our Native students and their families. These families are still struggling and students are still falling behind in class and struggle with truancy.

The Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) received written communication to address these struggles within Washington Elementary, Southwest Elementary and Clinton Middle School in the Clinton School District. Our staff is arranging school visits with students and creat-

ing schedules to see them on a regular basis.

NYCP hosted their first Christmas drive thru event with support from our community partners, the Food Distribution Program, Diabetes Wellness and Native Connec-

tions Alliance.

This event was held at Clinton Middle School on Dec. 16. The families of 3rd graders through 8th graders were given a bag with goodies, a sack full of snacks, a stocking filled with candy as well as a box of pizza along with information provided by the NYCP school social worker. Due to the cold temperatures and previous inclement weather we were not anticipating a large turnout, however at the end of the night we had served 75 students.

Our program is thankful for the great and growing partnership with Clinton Public Schools. We are looking forward to hosting our next parent drive thru in the month of January, please keep an eye out for details.



2021

01

JANUARY

JACKPOTS

LuckyStarCasino.org

Bigger. Closer.

ULTIMATE MAN CAVE GIVEAWAY

WE ARE GIVING AWAY A CUSTOMIZED MAN CAVE AT 11 PM EVERY SATURDAY AT EVERY LOCATION!

10X ENTRIES EVERY FRIDAY

Start earning entries December 27. Ten points equal one entry. See Players' Club for details.



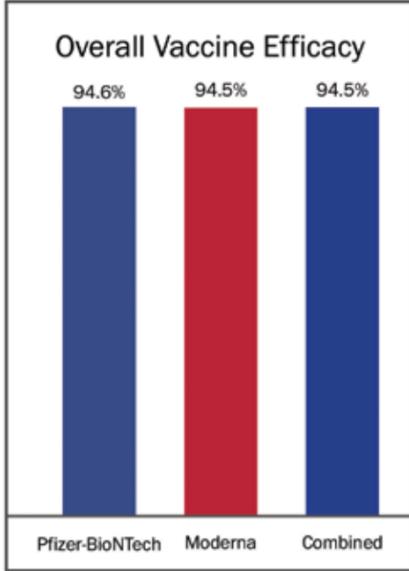
The Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines

Your Questions, Answered



Do they work?

Yes! The COVID vaccination are among the most effective vaccines ever made and work well across age groups, race/ethnicity, sex, and among those at risk due to other health issues such as diabetes, heart or lung disease, high blood pressure, cancer, obesity, and others.



Are they safe?

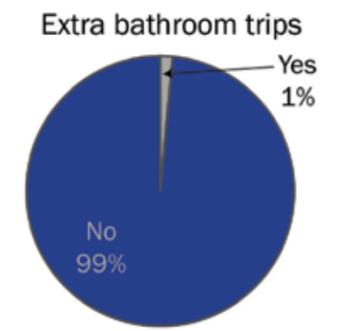
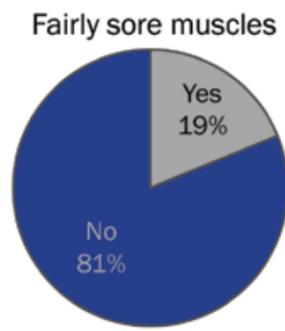
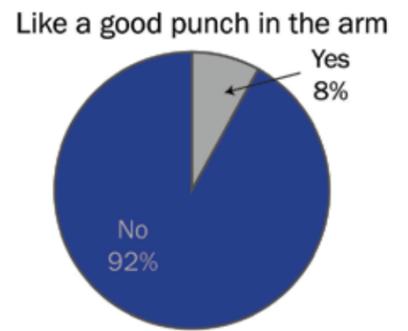
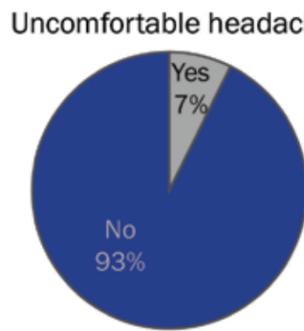
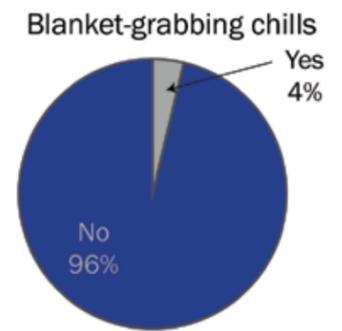
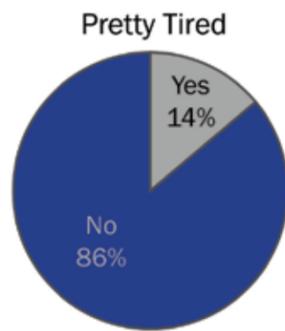
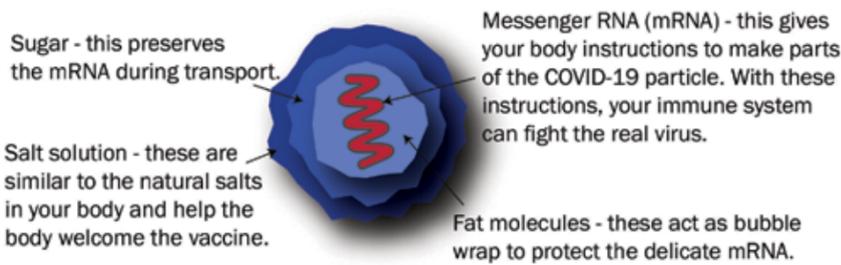
Yes! Both vaccines are very safe and have been well-tolerated among those in the clinical trials and among our tribal members and IHS staff who have already been vaccinated.

Will I have any side effects?

While most people didn't have any significant side effects, those that did experienced mild or moderate side effects. The most common, along with how often they occurred, are below. These lasted, on average, a day or less and are less frequent among older adults. Serious side effects have been extremely rare among hundreds of thousands who have received them. If you have concerns, discuss them with your health provider.

How do they work and what's in them?

Both vaccines work by showing your body how certain parts of the COVID-19 virus are made, so your body can recognize it as an intruder and prepare your immune system to fight it.

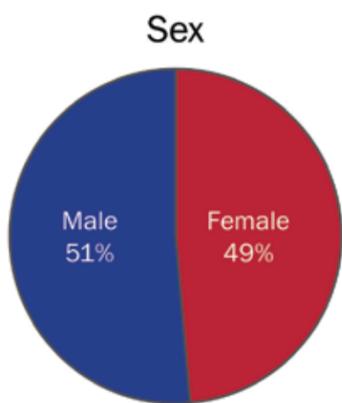
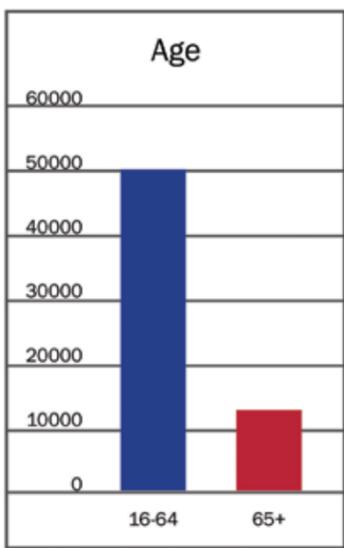
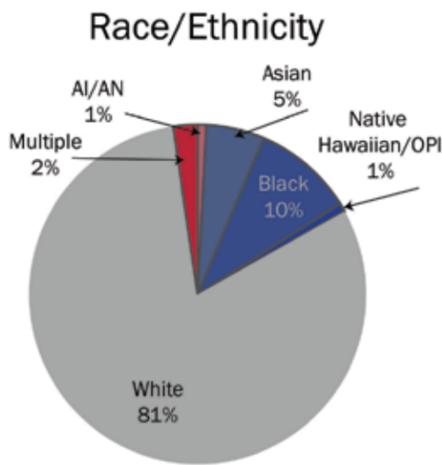


Will the vaccine give me COVID?

Neither vaccine contain any active parts of the virus, and can not give you COVID-19.

Who were the vaccines tested on?

More than 65,000 people completed clinical trials to date, with about 425 American Indians/Alaska Natives and 432 Native Hawaiians among them. The youngest were 16 and the oldest 95.



Do I need both doses?

Yes! While partial immunity develops after the first dose, both doses are needed 21 (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 (Moderna) days later to experience the fullest and longest lasting immunity provided by the vaccine.

How long will it last? What about variants?

We do not yet know how long immunity from the vaccines will last, but early research shows that immunity will last at least a couple of years. Most experts believe that these vaccines will work against variants that have shown up, but more testing needs to be done.

When can I get my vaccine?

For Tribal members, the IHS will contact you when you are eligible for the vaccine, based on guidance from the CDC.

Clinton IHS Service Unit has begun vaccinations:

- Phase 1a (health workers, ILC residents) - Completed**
- Phase 1b (elders (75+), frontline essential workers) - In process**
- Phase 1c (elders (65+), high-risk adults, essential workers) - Mid-January**
- Phase 2 (all other persons 16+) - When available**

We will keep you informed as more specific information and dates are available.

Can I stop wearing masks & distancing?

While the vaccine will protect you from getting severe COVID-19, it may not prevent you from getting milder COVID-19 and making others sick. Until most (70-80%) of the US population is vaccinated, we must all, vaccinated or not, continue avoiding indoor gatherings and practicing the 3 Ws: Wear a Mask; Wash Your Hands; Watch Your Distance.

Research is continuing and we will let you know as we learn more.



Department of Health
COVID Task Force



Tribal Health Board
Indian Health Service

