

A:shiwí A:wán Messenger



Special Issue 7 • October 5, 2020

LET'S VOTE BY NOVEMBER 3!

by Councilman Arden Kucate

On Sept. 29th, Dr. Rebecca Bak and I spoke on KSHI Radio about the importance of voting in the upcoming national election.

Dr. Bak spoke about the multiple ways to vote. One option, if you have access to the Internet, is to visit www.nmvote.org, where you can register to vote. If you are already registered, you can request an absentee ballot. There is also an in-person voter registration site in Gallup. Local Zuni Census workers are also able to register people to vote and can check if people are already registered to vote. All that is needed to

check on voter registration status is your name and date of birth. **Voter registration will be closing on October 6th**, so it is very important to make sure to register to vote in the November 3rd election.

Dr. Bak spoke about the history of the right to vote. Women weren't given the right to vote until 1920. Native Americans in New Mexico weren't given the right to vote until 1948. Native Americans have fought for their right to vote. It took the effort of Miguel Trujillo, a World War II veteran from Isleta

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ZPSD Food Service Team Delivers Across Community

Wins "Farm to School" Award

Hello from the Zuni Public School District Food Service Team! And Happy First Week of October!

Throughout Spring and Summer, our staff adapted to COVID-19 with school meal sites and deliveries. Fall virtual classes have given us another opportunity to keep supplying free breakfasts and lunches to all students. We currently deliver almost 1,000 meals per day three times weekly – nearly 3000 meals each week! - throughout the Zuni community.

Did you know that this is New Mexico Grown Week? The New Mexico Grown Initiative provides New Mexico students with regionally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, helps schools meet Federal nutrition requirements, and promotes "Farm to School" connections between local farmers and New Mexico schools. "Farm to School" is any combination of 1) local purchasing for school meals, 2) school garden education; and 3) educational programming in schools to

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CARES Act Funding Supports Zuni Veterans

The Governor and Tribal Council pledged to serve those who served. True to their word, they have provided financial support to the Zuni Veterans Program under the CARES Act. The program aims to support all eligible Veterans and Widows residing in the Zuni community with food and payment of utilities until the end of December, 2020. In order to ensure funds are properly expended, the Veterans program staff requires the following documentation to ensure

eligibility requirements are met:

- Veterans – Copy of DD214
- Widows – Copy of deceased Veterans DD214, death certificate and marriage certificate.

The following benefits are provided to eligible veterans and widows:

1. A \$200 monthly food voucher

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To reach the Pueblo of Zuni COVID-19 information center, open every day from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, call:

(505) 782-2466, (303) 917-3181,

(720) 660-7786, or (720) 576-4014

Tribes Celebrate Mesa Verde Repatriation

Mesa Verde, Colorado – On Sunday, a coalition of tribes including the Hopi Tribe, the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Zia, and the Pueblo of Zuni, repatriated and reinterred ancestors and associated funerary items at Mesa Verde National Park. The National Museum of Finland repatriated the human remains of 20 ancestors pursuant to a joint-agreement with these four sovereign tribes who claim cultural affiliation with the Mesa Verde area. The United States Department of State and the United States Embassy in Finland assisted the tribes in transporting the ancestors and funerary items from Helsinki, Finland to Mesa Verde.

In 1891, scholar Gustaf Nordenskiöld, of Finnish and Swedish descent, took hundreds of dwelling site finds, including ancestors and funerary items, from the Mesa Verde region and sent them to Stockholm, Sweden. He was initially arrested for exporting these remains and artifacts, but was later released, as no U.S. laws at the time prohibited such action. In Stockholm, the collection was sold to a Finnish doctor who later bequeathed the collection to the nation of Finland. Following his death, the collection was ultimately placed in the National Museum of Finland in Helsinki.

The history of this incident swayed public perception in the United States in favor of the importance of protecting cultural heritage resources, and ultimately helped lead to both the 1906 Antiquities Act and the establishment of Mesa Verde National Park.

Following contacts with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office in 2016, the National Museum of Finland conducted a re-inventory of the 614 items in the collection, with special attention to identification of the ancestral remains and funerary items. This inventory, completed in March of 2018, found that the collection contained remains of 20 individuals and 28 funerary items.

In July, 2018, the U.S. Department of State sponsored an International Visitors Leadership Program to build relationships between Native American tribes and European Museums. As part of this program, Heli Lahdentausta, Curator of the National Museum of Finland, met with representatives from the Hopi Tribe and visited a range of cultural institutions in New Mexico. Following this visit, the Republic of Finland notified the U.S.

Embassy in Helsinki that it would consider an official request for repatriation of human remains and funerary items.

Thereafter, in 2018, the Mesa Verde Native American Tribal Consultation Committee determined by consensus that the Hopi, Acoma, Zia, and Zuni tribes would take the lead in the effort to see the ancestors returned home. The U.S. request was made in the fall of 2018, followed by the unanimous passage of a resolution by the Hopi Tribal Council in July 2019 in support of the repatriation efforts. The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representing the 19 Pueblos in New Mexico and 1 in Texas, passed a parallel resolution in July of 2019.

In October, 2019, during a meeting between President Donald Trump and President Sauli Niinistö of Finland, it was announced that Finland had agreed to return the ancestors and their funerary items. In August, 2020, the National Museum of Finland and the four tribes entered into an agreement for the repatriation of the 20 ancestors and the 28 funerary items.

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, representatives from the Hopi, Acoma, Zia, and Zuni tribes received the ancestors in Durango, Colorado. The following morning, after nearly 129 years abroad, the ancestors were finally reinterred to their home in Mesa Verde.

The Hopi, Acoma, Zia, and Zuni tribes share ancestral ties to the original Ancestral Pueblo inhabitants of the Mesa Verde region, and continue to express their gratitude to the Republic of Finland, the National Museum of Finland, the United States, the U.S. Department of State, and to other tribes and partners, for their assistance in this important endeavor to right a historic wrong.

Leaders of the repatriating tribes stated:

“The Hopi People are thankful to everyone involved in ensuring our ancestors were returned to their rightful home, and are afforded the respect all human people deserve – being allowed to rest in peace,” said **Hopi Vice Chairman Clark W. Tenakhongva**. “The act of returning home has special significance in Hopi culture, for the return of our family both past and present is something to be celebrated. It is my hope that this event will serve as an example for other institutions in the world

to follow, in how to build genuine cross-cultural understandings between people. Kwakwhá.”

“The Pueblo of Acoma is grateful for the return of ancestors to their place of rest, the sacred homeland of Mesa Verde. For decades, the repatriating tribes have worked to return ancestors, associated funerary materials, and items of cultural patrimony excavated from various locations within Mesa Verde. Many of these collections remain in museums awaiting review and discussion between culturally affiliated tribes and museums either through the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) process or other methods where private institutions or foreign entities are concerned. This engagement, which evolved between the Finnish government, the National Museum of Finland, the four repatriating tribes, and United States officials, ensured a safe and culturally-appropriate process for the return of ancestors and funerary items. It is our hope that comparable institutions throughout the world who have similar collections will become motivated to engage in this level of nation-to-nation collaboration that results in repatriation and long-term partnerships, fostering dialogue and joint strategies for access to collections, stewardship, and programming.” **Governor Brian D. Vallo – Pueblo of Acoma**

“Our hearts are happy that our ancestors have made their journey home and are at rest where they belong. We are thankful to the Finnish government and the National Museum of Finland and are pleased to have forged this new relationship. The Pueblo looks forward to continue to work with the National Museum of Finland to repatriate all items of cultural value and historical importance to their rightful owners.” **Governor Fredrick Medina – Pueblo of Zia**

“The Pueblo of Zuni joins the Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Acoma, and Pueblo of Zia, in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to the leaders of Finland in the return of our ancestors to Mesa Verde. As their descendants, the A:shiwi continue to practice the shared Puebloan values and ways of life to this day. Even as modern day boundaries and jurisdictions disrupt our dedication, through our age-old prayers, we have realized this event. In doing so, we honor their vision and intent to share resources, blood, and resiliency. Elahkwa.” **Governor Val R. Panteah, Sr. – Pueblo of Zuni**

ROCK THE VOTE

KEY INFORMATION AND LINKS TO PREPARE TO VOTE

EARLY VOTE DATES FOR ALL 4 PRECINCTS: [Dates and location\(s\) will be posted on the Zuni website](#)

ABSENTEE REQUEST DEADLINE: **October 20, 2020 (Return due by November 03, 2020 or earlier).** You can request your ballot online starting August 22, 2020.

<https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal/absentee-and-early-voting/>

ACCESSIBLE ABSENTEE BALLOT (new) for blind or visually impaired individuals: October 20, 2020

MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS:

<https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information/military-and-overseas-voting/>

17 YEAR-OLDS CAN REGISTER TO VOTE IF THEY WILL BE 18 ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

<https://portal.sos.state.nm.us/OVR/WebPages/InstructionsStep1.aspx>

Update voter info: <https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal/>

McKinley County Office for enquiries:

Harriett K. Becenti - (505) 863-6866 - clerk@co.mckinley.nm.us; Election & Registration Enquiries: elections@co.mckinley.nm.us

Ho'na:wan ulo'nan hish hiyolishna, ashe: delosha. Lukkya weyakya hish i:bikwe:na' bocha! Kwa' (hinik) lukkya hana' k'yasushukwa; dem hish a:ne'. Wan honyam heshoda:wanakona yushanna dinak'yanna. Dishomaha, i:yansatdunapshe; i:yanko'hadinapashe'. Elahkwa

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redeemable at Halona Market. The entire amount must be spent at time of purchase. Sign-up will be on the 1st and 2nd of each month.

2. Electric bills collected on the 1st and 2nd of each month. Because of payment processing deadlines, those who do not submit their electric bills during these two days will be ineligible for payment for that month. Please submit your electric bill on time.
3. Propane delivery service will be announced once accounts are verified and established with AX Propane, Ferrell Gas, and AmeriGas. For those that use smaller propane tanks, an account will be established with Gallup Lumber.
4. Firewood service will be announced once wood haulers are contracted.

Other services offered:

1. Veterans who need a Military ID must make an appointment to establish an account with the Veterans Administration. Those who have a VA Medical ID card will be ineligible for another ID card. Veterans who want veteran status on their Drivers Licenses must go to the NM MVD and

provide a copy of their DD214.

2. Military vehicle license plate requests require a copy of DD214, vehicle registration in the veteran's name, copy of the current registration, current insurance coverage, and a money order for \$17.00 payable to the NM MVD.
3. Disabled Veterans vehicle license plate requests require proof of a disability rating of 50% or higher from the VA, DD214, vehicle registration in the veteran's name, and current insurance coverage. Disabled veterans are eligible for 2 license plates at no cost and the annual vehicle registration is waived.
4. All Veterans Program staff are certified Veterans Service Officers, accredited by the VA to process disability, pension, and survivor benefits claims.

Veterans Program staff express appreciation to the Veterans and their families for their support and patience through the process of providing these benefits during these uncertain times.

The Veterans Program office is located within the tribal building, and though the office may be closed during certain days, program staff are available by phone at **505-728-1275**. Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions.

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teach students about local food, nutrition, and agriculture.

In celebration of NM Grown Week, ZPSD would like to highlight the efforts we have made as part of Farm to School. Since 2017, ZPSD has been collaborating with the Zuni BIA to operate our Łu'cha Greenhouse and garden behind the BIA complex. An exciting aspect of the greenhouse is that it's irrigated using rainwater harvested from the BIA Program roof!

With the help of students from Twin Buttes Cyber Academy and ZYEP Summer Campers, ZPSD was able to grow lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, squash, onions and other produce to serve at all school sites.

As a result of all these efforts, Zuni Public Schools won the 2019 Farm to School of the Year Award at the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe!

Let's Vote continued from page 1

Pueblo, who filed a lawsuit for his right to vote, and he won. Through Mr. Trujillo's efforts we Native Americans in New Mexico won our right to vote.

The people who came before us fought for our right to vote. We must continue that fight and make our voices heard. We have to vote in the upcoming election. So many things are decided by how people vote and by how many people vote. The future of our children, grandchildren, and future generations of Zuni people to come depend on what we do right now. Our votes impact representation of our people by State legislators and members of Congress. Their recognition and understanding that Zuni people are voting in greater numbers influences them to support our community interests and needs, including Medicare, housing, and education.

Zuni's early-voting option will be available from October 17th to the 31st, from 9 am to 5 pm at the Adobe Learning Center, across from the Tribal Building. Dr. Bak and I will be continuing the conversation in upcoming radio shows. Keep an ear out for the date and time of the next radio show. It is important that we all keep informed about the upcoming election and the census, and to participate in both to make our voices heard.

As always, if you have any questions, you may contact me at 505-697-9743 or at Arden.Kucate@ashiwi.org.

DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINIC

**AGES:
6 Months & Older**

October 5 and 7, 2020

1:00 am—4:00 pm

@ Zuni Hospital (South Parking Lot)

October 6 & 8, 2020

11:00 am—4:00 pm

@ the Zuni Fairgrounds

PLEASE WEAR SHORT SLEEVE SHIRT &

EVERYONE WEAR A MASK

For More Information Call:

Zuni Public Health Nursing (PHN) Department @ 782-7340



COVID Testing Update

As of September 30, 2020, the following Emergency Management and Pueblo of Zuni data represent the Ramah/Zuni Service Unit (IHS) test results for non-tribal and tribal residents.

Total Tests Performed by Zuni Hospital Lab 6,189

Total Negative to date: 4,003

Total Positive to date: 625

Total Positive Test Results for Zuni as of 9/30: 492

Number of new positive as of 9/30: 1

Total Recoveries as of 9/30: 453

OUR COVID PRECAUTIONS IN ZUNI HAVE WORKED. BUT COVID IS ON THE RISE NATIONALLY.

LET'S KEEP UP OUR GUARD!

October – Zuni Veterans Program Calendar



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		  		Light Bill Collection 1pm – 4pm @ Old First Financial Credit Union Bldg. –Across Tribal Bldgs.	Light Bill Collection 8:30am –10:30am @ * In front of Tribal Bldg.	
4	5	Food Vouchers Halona Market 12pm – 3pm	Military IDs – Call for an Appt. or for more information	8	Food Vouchers Halona Market 9am – 11:30am	10
Food Vouchers Halona Market 9am – 11:00am	12	Front of Tribal Bldg. 10am -12pm Military License Plate Sign Up: You will need: *DD 214, Driver's License, Registration, Insurance * Award Letter if 50% or higher	14	Food Vouchers Halona Market 10am – 12pm	16	17
18	19	Food Vouchers Halona Market 9am – 11:30am	Front of Tribal Bldg. 10am -12pm Military License Plate Sign Up: You will need: *DD 214, Driver's License, Registration, Insurance * Award Letter if 50% or higher	22	Food Vouchers Halona Market 9am – 11:30am	24
25	Food Vouchers Halona Market 12pm – 3pm		28	29	30	31



If you have any questions, please call our office at **505-782-7280/782-7124** or the program cell: **505-728-1275**