

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

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Did You Know...

Grand Falls is a natural waterfall system located 30 miles (48.3 kilometers) northeast of Flagstaff, Arizona in the Painted Desert on the Navajo Nation.

At 185 feet (56 meters) tall, it is taller than Niagara Falls. It dumps snow melt or monsoon rain into the Little Colorado River below. It is known for its extremely muddy flow, which is a major contributor to Little Colorado River opacity. Heavy rains or snow melt will produce spectacular viewing, photography and sound whereas the scarcity of water will produce only trickles or no flow at all.

Grand Falls was formed when lava from nearby Merriam Crater flowed into the Little Colorado River, creating a lava dam. The river was forced to reroute itself around the dam and Grand Falls formed where the river rejoins its original course.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2Gvm8hh>

Events

February: Atsabiyaazh-Birth of Eaglets

February 2nd-Groundhog Day

February 7th-Indian Day @NM Legislature

February 10, 1927: First official Chapter meeting is held in Leupp, Arizona

February 14th-Valentine's Day

February 17th-President's Day

DCD Holds Employee Development and Holiday Celebration

On Friday, December 20, 2019, DCD and chapter staff convened to receive leadership and customer service training from Navajo facilitator and trainer, Pax Harvey. Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman welcomed the division staff and expressed admiration for the hard work everyone invests into serving their communities. The atmosphere was light and cheery as Dr. Yellowman shared stories of her own beginnings as she connected with the staff with humor. Dr. Yellowman turned over the presentation to Mr. Harvey as he expertly wove anecdotes from his personal life story into the presentations to entertain and capture the audience's attention. He expertly presented concepts and perspectives on customer service with role playing and crowd participation. The training was entertaining and humorously delivered as many participants complimented the presenter and expressed gratitude for a day that focused on training for chapter staff and division members, as well. As the day continued, the staff were treated to a luncheon and an employee recognition ceremony before returning to the training that afternoon.

The following is a list of all award recipients.



Division of Community Development • P.O. Box 1904, Window Rock, AZ

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Leadership Award

Employee demonstrates leadership and is a champion on issues important to DCD or unit; Leadership awards are normally given to individuals who show outstanding traits and they are usually the highest level of accomplishment in organizations.

DCD Exec/Management staff –

Ed Preston, Registered Architect, CPMD

LaVerne Benally, Program Manager, CHID

Edgerton Gene, SPPS Chinle ASC

Robert Jumbo, Chinle ASC

Lorena Atene, CSC, Navajo Mountain Chapter

Sydney Tsiniginnie, AA, Bodaway/Gap Chapter

Leandra K. James, CSC, Mariano Lake Chapter

Clara Tsosie, Chapter Manager, Teesto Chapter

Christine Same, CSC, Mexican Springs Chapter

Spirit Award

Employee works for the advancement of critical issues and provides support to DCD or unit with outstanding achievement; could include attendance. Employee traits: Leadership and Advocacy; Sense of Humor; Energy and Compassion; Commitment to Improve

DCD Exec/Management staff –

Sylvia Jordan, IT Unit

Saraphina Curley, Office Assistant, CHID

Leonard Hardy, Electrical Inspector, CPMD

Elizabeth Washburn, SPPS Shiprock ASC

Charlene Wallace, CSC, Tsalani/Cottonwood Chapter

Shirlee Bedonie, CSC, Oljato Chapter

Kristen Charley, Chapter Manager, Tonalea Chapter

Vera Morgan, CSC, Churchrock Chapter

Derek Echohawk, ASO, Fort Defiance ASC

Billie Yazzie, AA, Greasewood Chapter

Genevieve Castillo, Chapter Manager, Little Water Chapter

Transformation Award

Employee who has helped transform DCD or unit through their efforts and long term commitment and whose leadership and work benefits and influences/transforms communities. A dramatic change, much needed change, significant change.

DCD Exec/Management staff –

Leo Barber, Project Manager, CPMD

Brenda Notah, Senior Office Specialist, CHID

Robert Jumbo, ASO Chinle ASC

Lewanda Ben, AMS, Many Farms Chapter

Pearl Begay, Administrative Assistant, Dennehotso Chapter

Marjorie Sangster, ASO, Tuba City ASC

Sherry Dick, CSC, Whitecone Chapter

Aaron Edsitty, CSC, Crownpoint Chapter

Rising Star Award

Employee who just arrive to the organization or for individuals who may have just joined your team and have taken all the right first steps. Dedicated service and significant contributions after the 90-days introductory period and up to 4-years of service.

DCD Exec/Management staff –

Kent Grantsen, Engineering Technician, CPMD

Jerome Meyers, Field Supervisor, CHID

Eunice Begay, SPPS Dilkon ASC

Sheila King, CSC, Rough Rock Chapter

Rhondale Yazzie, AMS, Navajo Mountain Chapter

Billie Baldwin, AMS, Cameron Chapter

Delray Tom, AMS, Iyanbito Chapter

Lynda Hayes, CSC, Gadiiahi/Tokoi Chapter

Rena Begay, CSC, Indian Wells Chapter

Angie Burnside, CSC, Whitehorse Lake Chapter





Innovation Award

Employee developed best practices and innovative ways to serve communities which result in improved performance and effectiveness to DCD or unit; a new method, idea, service.

Denise Copeland, IT Unit

Rory Jaques, Project Manager, CPMD

Wilfreda Stewart, Senior Office Specialist, CHID Calvin

Tsosie, SPPS Kayenta ASC

Walton Yazzie, Chapter Manager, Chinle Chapter Clairice

Begay, ASO, Kayenta ASC

Durann Begay, AA, Tuba City Chapter

Clarita Etsitty, Chapter Manager, Casamero Lake Chapter

Shawn Livingston, CSC, Sawmill Chapter

Samuel Sage, CSC, Counselor Chapter

Outstanding Achievement Team Award

Employee groups recognized for their contributions to DCD or unit services as demonstrated by their performance, commitment to excellence and dedication as a team.

CPMD - Commercial Building Team

CPMD - Project Managers Team

CHID - HIP Construction Crew,

ASC - SPPS Team - Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter

Dennehotso Chapter

Kayenta ASC

DCD Hero Award

Employee recognized for workplace and community excellence in safety, emergency preparedness and emergency response, OR environmental protection OR suicide awareness OR peacemaking efforts.

George Hubbard, PPS, CPMD

Shirleen Jumbo-Rintila, SPPS Crownpoint ASC

Paul Begay, CSC, Tsaila/Wheatfields Chapter

Matthew Austin, Dennehotso Chapter

Augusta Gillman, CSC, Coalmine Chapter

Myrtis Begay, ASO, Crownpoint ASC



Customer Experience Award

Employee that always goes above and beyond to support and motivate customers and co-workers. These types of individuals are those that you always want in your unit and on your team for their outstanding customer service skills.

DCD Exec/Management -

Norman Scott, Community Involvement Specialist, RA Unit

Margaret Begay, Accountant, CPMD

Marilyn Barney, Accounting Tech, CHID

Deidra Dale, Admin. Assistant - Central ASC

Gayla James, CSC, Round Rock Chapter

Mariah Cly, Administrative Assistant, Kayenta Chapter

Michelle Billy, OS, Tuba City ASC

Sharon McCarthy, AMS, Smith Lake Chapter

Darlene Watson, OS, Fort Defiance ASC

Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Achievement

DCD Exec/Management -

Rachelle Tagaban, Rural Addressing Technician, RA Unit

Elmer Johnson, Project Manager, CPMD

Denise Copeland, Principal Archeologist, CPMD

Judith Willoghby, Engineering Tech,

CPMD Shayla Draper, Planner, CPMD

Gloria Grey, Office Assistant, CPMD

Patricia Begay, SPPS Fort Defiance ASC

Casey Begay, SPPS Baca ASC

Esther Yazzie, Office Assistant, Central ASC

Tia Yazzie, OA, Chinle ASC

Edward Clark Jr, CSC, Klageh Chapter

Titus J. Nez, CSC, Pinedale Chapter

January 2020



Congratulations

CPMD Project Update Meeting



PROJECT PROGRESS TO DATE

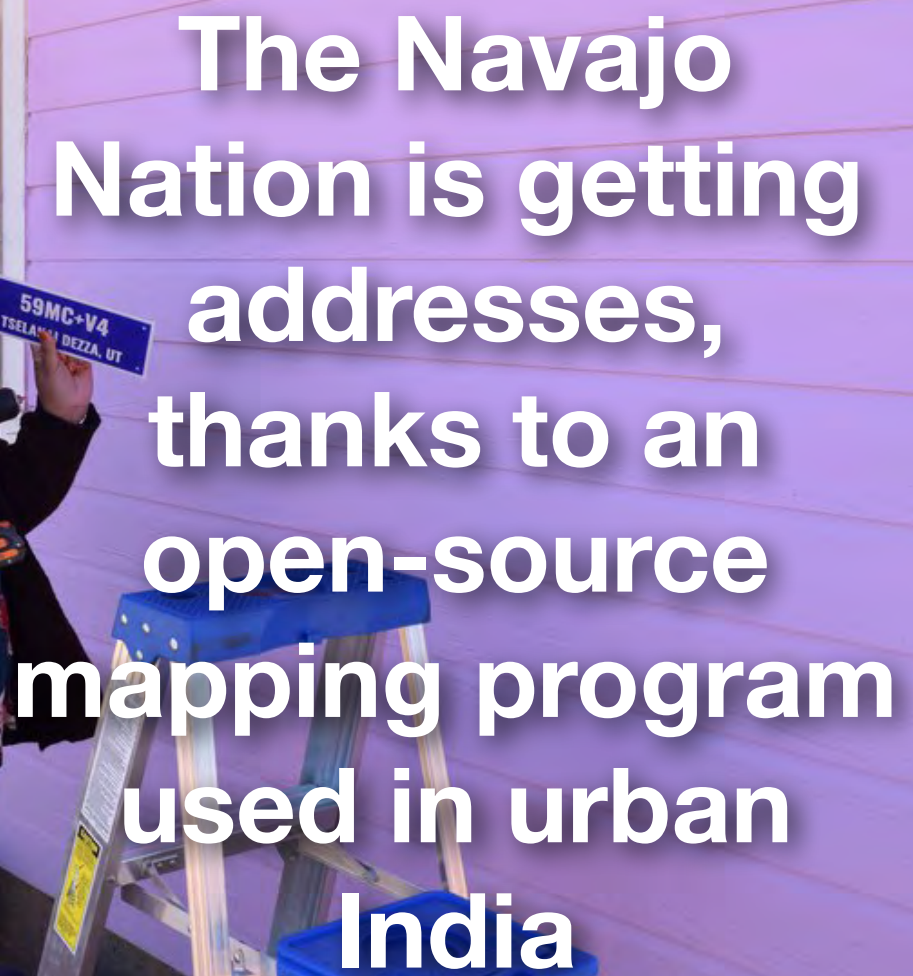
A successful reconciliation meeting was held between the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, the Capital Projects Management Department under the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, lead agent departments and chapters.

CPMD is grateful for the support of Navajo Nation leadership in these proceedings including IDCD Executive Director, Dr. Pearl Yellowman, the Office of the President and Vice President, and council delegates.

CPMD Department Manager, James Adakai added, "The goal is to get the projects off the ground, complete and close them out, secure more funding and do new projects."

PHOTOS - Amerind Risk Conference bldg., Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M. 11-15-19



A woman with glasses and a black jacket is smiling and holding a blue Plus Code sign that reads "59MC+V4 TSELAMU DEZZA, UT". She is also holding a power drill. A blue step ladder is positioned next to her. In the background, a young child is visible near a doorway of a light-colored building.

The Navajo Nation is getting addresses, thanks to an open-source mapping program used in urban India

By Zak Podmore • The Salt Lake Tribune

Bluff • Thousands of people living on the Navajo Nation in Utah have long relied on directional descriptions for lack of physical addresses.

"Four miles east of Highway 191 at White Rock," such a description might read. Or, "Two miles southwest of the Red Mesa Chapter House."

These clunky, imprecise descriptions appear on driver licenses, voter registration forms and are relayed over the phone to fire departments and ambulances during emergencies, which can lead to life-threatening delays in response.

But starting this fall, residents of the reservation are being offered a new addressing option as the Rural Utah Project partners with Google to implement a free-to-use, open-source mapping technology known as Plus Codes.

The codes are pulled from a worldwide grid that offers far more accurate location information than directional addresses when used with a mapping program, such as Apple Maps or Google Maps

Monument Valley High School, for example, has the Plus Code 2R4C+2R, Oljato-Monument Valley, Utah, and Plus Codes have been identified for most inhabited structures on tribal lands in San Juan County as well as for the off-reservation town of Bluff.

The Navajo Nation program is the first time the technology is being used in the United States.

The technology originated when Google Technical Program Manager Doug Rinckes was working through his lunch break. Rinckes, who grew up in New Zealand and lives in Switzerland, wanted to increase the accuracy of Google Maps in developing countries, which required working through satellite images manually.

"I was spending my lunch time drawing in the road networks in little towns in places like Sudan," Rinckes recalled, "and one of my colleagues was like, 'What are you doing?'"

Rinckes explained he was putting in the roads with the hopes that street names could be added later by locals.

His colleague's response was, "You know those roads don't have names, right?"

Rinckes, who said he has always lived in "well-mapped" places, was surprised to learn that in parts of the developing world, whole towns exist without any street names or traditional addresses. He began working through the quandary of how to effectively bring addresses to places without street names, and he started a side project to solve the problem that later turned into his full-time job.

His team eventually developed the Plus Code grid that can locate any point with precision independently of street names. Codes aren't randomly generated when they're identified for structures, but are already assigned to the entire surface of the globe.



(COURTESY OF PLUS.CODES / GOOGLE) MONUMENT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ON THE PLUS CODE GRID.

Rinckes said the program was designed for places like sub-Saharan Africa, India and parts of the Middle East and Latin America.

The biggest project to date has been a home addressing program in densely populated slums in Kolkata, India, with an Ireland-based organization called Addressing the Unaddressed. Many of the 300,000 homes that have been given Plus Codes are tiny, some less than 80 square feet, and have never had postal addresses.

According to Rinckes, Plus Codes have allowed Kolkata residents to access government services, register for bank accounts and receive postal deliveries for the first time.

The project was going well in the places it was designed to be most useful, including being used to deliver medical services in refugee camps in Somalia. So it came as a shock a few years ago when Rinckes presented at a California conference and was approached by several members of the Navajo Nation.

"They were like, 'Hey, your idea is really cool. We live like two states to the east, and we need it,'" Rinckes said.

The encounter led Rinckes to M.C. Baldwin, the rural addressing coordinator at the Navajo Nation Addressing Authority. Baldwin's office has been able to bring street addresses to 1,000 buildings over the last decade. The work is slow, and Plus Codes were seen as a potential stopgap solution.

Meanwhile, the Rural Utah Project (RUP), a group formed in 2018 that registered 1,600 mostly Navajo voters in San Juan County last year, had seen firsthand the difficulties associated with registering unaddressed residents to vote.

T.J. Ellerbeck, the group's executive director, said when the school board districts were redrawn following a federal court ruling, RUP learned significant numbers of voters were in the wrong precincts. In one school board district alone, nearly 20% of voters' residences were misplaced in the county's voter registration files, Ellerbeck said.

"We found some people were living in the middle of the river," said Marilyn Holly, vice president of the Navajo Nation's Red Mesa Chapter, referring to the errors.

According to the county clerk's files, other voters were shown as living on the side of sheer cliff faces or miles from the nearest structure. "We really needed addresses," Holly said.

Baldwin suggested the group try Plus Codes, and Ellerbeck partnered with employees of Google, including Rinckes.

RUP got buy-in from Navajo Nation officials in Utah and hired local field staff who speak the Navajo language to go visit over 5,500 potential structures on the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation. In the end, RUP identified the Plus Codes for 2,600 inhabited homes.

Last week, RUP began returning to each structure to distribute outdoor signs, fridge magnets and wallet cards to residents with their Plus Codes printed on them to help with memorization.



(ZAK PODMORE | THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE) DALENE REDHORSE HANDS INFORMATION ON PLUS CODES TO HER NIECE, MENVALIA REDHORSE, ON OCT. 10, 2019.

Ellerbeck hopes to see Plus Codes used by first responders, the Department of Motor Vehicles and parcel delivery companies. The program could also help census workers connect with residents as they undertake the 2020 count, Ellerbeck said.

The San Juan County Clerk's Office is already beginning to adopt Plus Codes into its voter system.

Rinckes' long-term plan is more ambitious: to make Plus Codes a universally recognized alternative to street addresses. "Our plan is to make it ... so it's just ubiquitous, normal, no surprises — so someone who has one can use it in all the same ways that I use my address."

Although the technology was developed by Google, it's available to other tech companies, other mapping platforms and governments. Google is not charging license fees.

"The definition of how the codes are generated and how they work is all public record now," Rinckes said. "Anybody can take that and use it."

Menvalia Redhorse lives in a modern hogan amid a remote cluster of homes on the Navajo Nation south of Bluff and was among the first to receive her Plus Code house sign from RUP last week.

"I think [Plus Codes] are a lot easier [than directional addresses]," she said, adding she has seen the consequences of delayed EMS services and hopes the codes will mean packages will be delivered to her house one day.

When a visitor told her they used her Plus Code on their phone to navigate to her house, Redhorse replied, "Yeah, I was surprised you found it. I usually have to drive out toward the highway to meet [guests]."



(COURTESY OF RURAL UTAH PROJECT) A PLUS CODE SIGN ON A HOME ON THE NAVAJO NATION IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2019/10/25/navajo-nation-is-getting/>

Fort Defiance Area Chapter Staff Meeting

January 29, 2020 - Fort Defiance Area Chapters Staff met at the Cornfields Chapter. Two presentations were provided to staff by Safety and Loss program on office safety and facility inspection. A Presentation about an update from the DOJ Chapter unit by Mr Roderick Begay. Both Presentations were very informational and the staff learned a lot. The staff also enjoyed a tasty luncheon provided by the Cornfield Chapter administration. ASC Staff and Fort Defiance Chapters were able tour the Cornfields Chapters wellness center and laundromat. In addition we were impressed by the rubber mats the Chapter is currently producing using tires which they started because of illegal tire dumping.



RSL player Kyle Beckerman and a Diné photographer help Navajo Nation homes in Utah get electricity for the first time



BY ZAK PODMORE

Tselakai Dezza, Utah • When Mylo Fowler was growing up on the Navajo Nation near Steamboat, Ariz., in the 1980s and '90s, his family didn't have electricity. All through high school, he did homework under a kerosene lamp or tried to fill out worksheets on the long, bumpy bus ride to school in the morning.

"There were so many years of being told, 'You'll get electricity this summer,'" Fowler said. "And that goes on for a year, which turns into five and that turns into 10, 15 years."

It was only after Fowler left home, lived abroad and returned to guide tourists through slot canyons near Page, Ariz., that his family finally got power.

The experience has inspired Fowler to help find a stopgap solution for some of the 60,000 residents of the Navajo Nation who still lack electricity, and, since 2015, he has helped install a simple off-grid solar setup for over 100 households.

"Even though it's almost 2020," he said, "so many kids are living right now the way I was living as a kid."

Many residences are wired for electricity and have a meter box installed on the outside by the tribal utility company, but they have never been hooked up to the grid. "Maybe their homes aren't up to code," Fowler said, or maybe they've been on the waiting list for years. Fowler, a professional photographer, has raised money for the solar equipment by selling calendars and prints. Most of the systems he has given to families include a single 50-watt panel and a self-contained battery system that can power a few LED lights or charge phones and other devices.

Since 2015, many nonprofits, including Utah Diné Bikéyah, have contributed to the project, which was initiated by donations and discounts from the Utah-based solar company Goal Zero.

On his most recent trip, Fowler worked with the Real Salt Lake Foundation and the Major League Soccer team's captain, Kyle Beckerman, on 10 homes. To fund the trip, Beckerman and his teammates auctioned off signed, game-worn jerseys and the funds were matched by the foundation, raising enough money for 40 solar systems in San Juan County.

"One of the pillars of the Real Salt Lake Foundation is education," said Mary VanMinde, the foundation's executive director. "And when you look at the largest county in the state of Utah [by geography], which is also the poorest county, this is a natural fit for us to help."

"It's neat that we can make a difference with a pretty simple thing," Beckerman said. "We can bring someone light who has been relying on a kerosene lantern."

Fowler, who is fluent in Navajo and was a voice actor for the character Crush on the Navajo language version of "Finding Nemo," connects with families in need through Facebook and word of mouth.

"Mylo Fowler is people to people," VanMinde said. "That's why this works. We've never had someone recommend someone else who hasn't needed it."

VanMinde partnered with U.S. Rep. John Curtis, R-Utah, and the Heart of America Foundation to be able to distribute art supplies, soccer balls, toys and Real Salt Lake apparel to kids during the home visits.

And families with the most need have received larger systems from the project. Fowler said one of the more rewarding installations was for parents who needed to keep a child's insulin cold, and before they received solar power, they were having to rely on a makeshift root cellar outside.

"What they were doing was digging a hole and then covering it with rocks," Fowler said.

"Now, for the last year and a half, they've had a solar-powered refrigerator." Previously, the family had to rely on foods with a long shelf life. But one of the parents recently called Fowler and told him that the fridge has allowed the family to buy more fresh fruits and vegetables.

"Now those boys, they're eating healthier," he said.

Another highlight of the effort has been the ability to actually finish the installations on the spot. During the most recent trip to San Juan County, it struck Fowler just how important that is for households that have been promised electricity for years like his parents were.

"We did one installation way late one night and [the homeowner] asked how long it was going to take," Fowler said. "I told him, maybe 30, 40 minutes. And then he asked, 'How much longer after that until we have light?'"

Fowler told him, "You'll have it once we're done."

"The wife couldn't believe it," Fowler continued. "She asked again, 'We're really going to have light in our house tonight?' I said, 'Yeah.'"

"Then she got emotional and so did I. There are just hundreds of those stories everywhere."

READ MORE AT: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2019/11/28/rsl-player-kyle-beckerman/>

Bulletin Board

Navajo Nation Council observes passing of Sophie Yazzie at 105

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Sophie Yazzie (c. 1914 – Jan. 25, 2020), 105, passed on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. Sophie is remembered as a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who was a member of the Navajo Nation that served in World War II.

"On behalf of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, I wish to express the solemn observance of the passing of Miss Sophie Yazzie. It is with hearts full of deep regard for her service to our Nation that we recognize the true blessing her soul was to our People. May her legacy continue to be a guiding light of service, dedication, and the ultimate fulfillment of a life truly well-lived," said Speaker Seth Damon.

Sophie Yazzie was a decorated veteran of the Women's Army Corps, formerly called the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She enlisted in 1943 and rose to the rank of Technician Fourth Grade (Sergeant) in the 734th WAC. She was trained as a cook and nurse.

"It is sad to learn that we have lost a Navajo woman warrior. We express our sincere condolences and offer support to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It is with great gratitude to know she served with great honor and was a noble example to her family and extended relatives. We join them to remember her as a Navajo Veteran and many Navajo veterans who to this day protected our right to free speech, the right to vote, to assemble and freely exercise our beliefs," said Health, Education, and Human Services Committee Chair Daniel E. Tso.

Sophie Yazzie had her home in Canyon De Chelly, which was also described as her birthplace, recounted Chinle Chapter Council Delegate Eugene Tso.



"Sophie was well known, and she was a person who inspired many people. She motivated many lives and was kind and generous to all. She attended community meetings and got her issues and concerns across in a strong, kind hearted manner. We knew Sophie as a loving family lady that was admired by whoever she met," said Delegate Eugene Tso.

Sophie Yazzie married Jordan B. Yazzie in 1945 and together they had four children. After she was honorably discharged, she became a cook at Wingate Boarding School until her retirement. She is acknowledged as the longest-living veteran in the State of Arizona.

The Navajo Nation Council extends its recognition to Sophie Yazzie on her long life.

"It is said that living to see the age of 102 is one of the greatest blessings in our Diné (Navajo) worldview. Sà'ah naaghéí ashkii dóó bik'eh hózhó at'ééd (the Diné figures of Long Life and Happiness) are present in our sacred ceremonies. In this way, Sophie's presence among our People was also a prayer and a blessing," said Tónaaneesdizí (Tuba City) Chapter Governance Council Delegate Otto Tso. "Sá Baahózhó Yik'iyyáá, she came across and lived a very good life," he said.

Those seeking to provide donations of support may submit them to: Karen Kuciver C/O Kathleen Lampert, 6110 East 30th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711.

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/2t5dy5U>

President Trump signs measure to preserve Native languages

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - President Donald Trump has signed into law legislation that extends federal grant programs aimed at preserving indigenous languages. The measure also allows more American Indian tribes to participate in the programs. The legislation was named after Esther Martinez, a traditional storyteller and Tewa language advocate from Ohkay Owingeh, a northern New Mexico pueblo. Her family, tribal leaders and members of the state's congressional delegation praised passage of the bill.

Dozens of tribes across the country are currently sharing in more than \$11 million in grants for language preservation and immersion through the programs. For more information about the Esther Martinez Act, [Click Here](#).

Bulletin Board

Neomi Gilmore confirmed as district court judge by 24th Navajo Nation Council



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Dec. 20, 2019 – At Thursday's special session of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, Neomi Gilmore was confirmed as a probationary judge in the Navajo Nation District Court system. Honorable Gilmore's confirmation came after the recommendation of the Judicial Conduct Commission to President Nez for appointment to the vacant judgeship.

Hon. Gilmore is a law graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law and has been a member in good standing of the Navajo Bar Association since 2015.

At the confirmation, Hon. Gilmore demonstrated her proficiency in speaking the Navajo language. She also expressed her interest in serving the Judicial Branch to further integrate Diné Fundamental Law into the district court system.

Hon. Gilmore served previously in the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Chapter Unit where she provided legal services to 110 Navajo Nation Chapters and the Administrative Service Center program in the Division of Community Development.

As a probationary judge, Hon. Gilmore will now serve two years at the district court level. Following the two years, the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council will hold an evaluation of performance and either recommend the permanent appointment or the removal of the probationary judge based on public testimony.

At the special session, the 24th Navajo Nation Council also voted to confirm two other district court judges, Hon. Letitia Stover and Hon. Malcolm Laughing.

READ MORE AT: <https://mailchi.mp/ad3030956202/for-immediate-release-neomi-gilmore-confirmed-as-district-court-judge-by-24th-navajo-nation-council>

President Nez speaks in support of Navajo elders, students, chapter projects, and renewable energy before New Mexico legislators

SANTA FE N.M. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Office of the President and Vice President Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco on Tuesday, as he spoke before the Nez Mexico Senate Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee in support of Impact Aid funding for Navajo students, the creation of a trust fund for elders, chapter project funding, and renewable energy development at the State Capitol in Santa Fe, N.M.

President Nez also met with several legislators one-on-one including State Sen. George Muñoz (D-Dist. 4) and Reps. Shannon D. Pinto (D-Dist. 5), Derrick J. Lente (D-Dist. 65), Anthony Allison (D-Dist. 4), Harry Garcia (D-Dist. 69), and House Appropriations and Finance Committee Chairwoman Patricia A. Lundstrom (D-Dist. 9).

During last year's legislative session, the Navajo Nation successfully advocated for \$28 million in capital outlay funds for chapter projects in New Mexico. On Tuesday, President reported to the committee that all 2019 capital outlay projects funded by the state legislature have agreements in place, have met the five-percent encumbered threshold, and are well on their way to being completed on time.

"Our administration is committed to meeting all requirements included in each of the grant agreements for 2019 and previous years," said President Nez. "We are doing our very best to move these projects toward completion."

During his presentation, President Nez also requested the support of the legislators to change the funding formula for Impact Aid funding distribution to support 100-percent funding for school districts including those within the Navajo Nation.

"I believe the New Mexico funding formula needs to be re-evaluated. There are multiple Impact Aid bills this year with various proposals on how to return to the districts an amount that equals 100-percent of the funding, but how the legislature reaches 100-percent is in the hands of the legislature," President Nez stated.

In New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's State of the State Address on Jan. 20, she proposed the establishment of an elder trust fund. President Nez said he fully supports this proposal to help provide much-needed services and assistance for Navajo Nation senior centers in the state of New Mexico.

"Our Navajo elders are always a high priority for our administration and with the creation of an elder trust fund, many opportunities and benefits would be afforded for our senior centers and elders," added President Nez.

Last year, the state legislature adopted the Energy Transition Act, which established renewable energy standards including a mandate for utilities to provide 100-percent carbon free energy by the year 2045.

This measure also provided funding and benefits for employees impacted by the closure of the San Juan Generating Station, however, a majority of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission members took a position that the funds and benefits under the Energy Transition Act do not apply to workers at the San Juan Generating Station where members of the Navajo Nation comprise over 60-percent of the workforce for the plant, mine, contractors, and vendors.

President Nez urged the lawmakers to seek a resolution that will allow funding to be used to assist displaced workers. In August 2019, President Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and

Resources and Development Committee Chair Rickie Nez went before the Public Regulation Commission to advocate for the Navajo workers.

The Nez-Lizer Administration will continue to meet with state legislators and the Office of the Governor throughout the remaining 30-day state legislative session to advocate for these and other issues for the benefit of the Navajo people.

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/2vwmhPj>

January 2020

PERSONNEL NEWS

DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
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Administrative Service Centers

Community Services Coordinator(S)	Jeddito, AZ	36,462.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Klagetoh, AZ	25,854.40	02/18/2020
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Tsayatoh, NM	36,462.40	03/05/2020
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Red Lake, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Black Mesa, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Forest Lake, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Iyanbito, NM	36,462.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Alamo, NM	25,854.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Lake Valley, NM	36,462.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Nahodishgish, NM	25,854.40	02/07/2020
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Red Mesa, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	36,462.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Cameron, AZ	36,462.40	OUF

Community Housing and Infrastructure Department

Eligibility Technician(S)	Fort Defiance, AZ	25,854.40	02/07/2020
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(OUF)
(S)

Open Until Filled
Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at
<http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/jobs.html>

COMIC OF THE MONTH

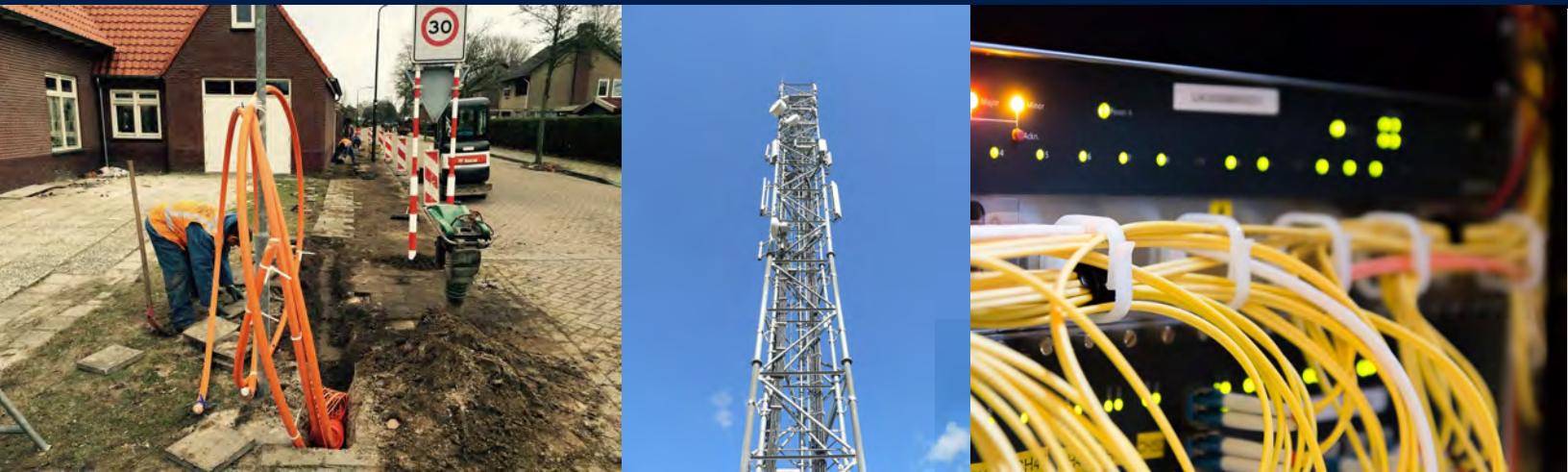


Funny Pictures on www.LeFunny.net

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Navajo Nation Partners with Magellan for Broadband Planning



Denver, CO, January 13, 2020 – The Navajo Nation has engaged Magellan Advisors to lead the development of a Broadband Plan for the Navajo Nation, spanning 26,000 square miles across four states, including Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado.

Magellan will evaluate broadband and information technology assets and develop recommendations to improve coverage for broadband, 4G/5G cellular and public safety; lower pricing; and to pinpoint areas where additional development is needed. Magellan will target strategies that create open and affordable access to a high-performance network connecting major communities and growth areas; extend high-speed, affordable broadband access to all residents; and ensure support for economic development, education, healthcare, government and other critical services.

Magellan will assist in the formation of a new collaboration of carriers, broadband providers and the Navajo Nation Cyber Team and provide recommendations to modernize broadband-related policies, legislation and code to better support and accelerate broadband development. Building on strategy development and policy reform, Magellan will help the Navajo Nation identify needed support and investment for infrastructure development in unserved and underserved areas, develop public/private partnerships, and recommend available methods to fund deployment.

A Long-Range Communication Plan for the Navajo Nation

Navajo Cyber Team member, Norbert Nez, IT Manager, Division of Community Development stated, “This is an incredible opportunity for the Navajo Nation. For the first time, all three branches of the Navajo Nation government have come together to plan together for broadband on the Navajo Nation. This is a giant collaborative step toward what will be a long-range plan for the Navajo Nation for communication, education, public safety, health and economic benefits. The plan will allow the Navajo Nation to invest into badly needed broadband infrastructure for the future of the Navajo people. The Navajo people, especially our children, deserve access to low-cost, high-speed Broadband which is a major goal of the project.” Nez added, “This project was made possible through the support and efforts of the members of the Navajo Cyber Team, the Office of the President and Vice President, Office of the Speaker, the Judicial Branch, the Navajo Nation Council and all of the project partners.”

Magellan has a track record for success in planning, funding and deployment of advanced broadband infrastructure in remote, hard to serve areas, attracting over \$105 million in new investment in long-haul, middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure in 2018-2019 alone. “Magellan looks forward to working with the Navajo Nation Cyber Team to advance broadband infrastructure and equal access to broadband-enabled opportunities for the Navajo People.”

About Magellan Advisors

Magellan plans and deploys the infrastructure that will power our cities for the next 20 years. From gigabit fiber broadband to smart grid networks to the Internet of Things, Magellan develops the most advanced fiber and wireless networks to support thriving communities of the future.

Magellan provides turnkey planning, design, deployment and operations of the fastest, most technologically advanced networks around, connecting the world at light speed and ushering in the next evolution of devices and applications in our homes, businesses and communities.

Magellan assists utilities, governments and carriers plan and execute strategic deployments of fiber and wireless networks to meet the needs of their customers, giving them a single partner that manages every step in the process and ensures that networks are delivered on time and on budget.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.bbcmag.com/breaking-news/navajo-nation-partners-with-magellan-advisors-for-broadband-planning-within-its-26-000-square-mile-four-state-region>

Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

Census Bureau Ramps Up Hiring Efforts for 2020 Census

RECRUITING UNDERWAY NATIONWIDE FOR MORE APPLICANTS

January 7, 2020 – The U.S. Census Bureau is ramping up its national recruiting efforts to hire up to 500,000 temporary, part-time census takers for the 2020 Census in communities across the country to reach its goal of more than 2 million applicants.

The positions offer competitive pay, flexible hours, paid training, and weekly paychecks. To determine the pay rate in a specific area, learn more about these positions, or apply for one of the temporary jobs, visit 2020census.gov/jobs.

“Whether you’re looking to earn some extra cash, pay down your student debt, or offset holiday season spending, our part-time positions are a great way to do that,” said Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham. “What better way to earn some extra money and help shape the future of your community for the next 10 years than with the 2020 Census?”

Anyone age 18 and older, such as recent high school graduates, college students, veterans, retirees, military spouses, seasonal workers and people who are bilingual are highly encouraged to apply. People who already have jobs and want to earn extra income evenings and weekends are also encouraged to apply. The selection process begins this month, with paid training occurring in March and April. After paid training, most positions work between May and early July.

In addition, the Census Bureau released a new interactive map to help partners and job seekers identify areas where hiring is taking place. The Census Bureau needs more applicants in all 50 states, especially in Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. The Census Bureau makes every effort to hire locally so census takers are familiar with the neighborhoods they are assigned to work.

“Aside from Puerto Rico, that has already received enough applicants to fill all jobs in the Commonwealth, every other area throughout the nation needs more applicants right now,” said Timothy Olson, Census Bureau associate director for Field Operations. “With low unemployment, the Census Bureau is taking extraordinary efforts to attract enough applicants to fill nearly 500,000 positions this spring.”

Census takers are critical for their communities during the 2020 Census — going door to door to collect responses from households who have not responded online, by phone or by mail.

“Our aim is to reach interested applicants right now, inform them of updated pay rates in their area, and get them into the applicant pool to be considered for these critical jobs,” said Olson. “The hiring process occurs in stages, and we are encouraging everyone to apply right now before selections begin in January and February. Most census taker jobs begin training and work this spring.”

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted every 10 years. Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and inform how state, local and federal lawmakers will allocate billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities every year for the next 10 years.

For more information about the 2020 Census, visit the Census Bureau website.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/2020-recruitment.html>



Navajo Nation 2020 Census Summit

February 6, 2020 at San Juan College – Henderson Arts Center

February 7, 2020 at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino – east of Flagstaff

Census Summit is designed to provide resources to guide regional, state, local and tribal government entities as they plan for the nationwide decennial census event.

Save the Date: for the **Navajo Nation 2020 Census Summit** to build outreach strategies at the local level. It is our duty to make sure Navajo Nation has an accurate count this time around. Shape your future and get census educated.

Invited speakers to cover census activities and timelines, recruitment & training, operation (when to knock on doors), group quarters, update leave, non-response follow-up, quality evaluation. Topics will include hard-to-count challenges & barriers, language, remoteness, Internet connectivity, children to single parent, multiple family in household, public housing rental units, (don't have time) attitude, and questionnaire. Four ways to respond, residence rules, strategy planning & more. How can local complete count committee (Chapter officials, LRAC & CLUP, veterans, senior centers, head start, CHR, etc.) assist?

When: Thursday, February 6th, 2020

Time: Registration starts at 7:00 a.m. and summit begins at 8:00, concludes after 4:00 p.m.

Where: Henderson Fine Arts Center, San Juan College, 4601 College Boulevard, Farmington, NM 87402 (505) 566-3430

Plus Code: 858H QR9J+Q4 ; Travel arrangements and meals on your own

When: Friday, February 7th, 2020

Time: Registration starts at 7:00 a.m. and summit begins at 8:00, concludes after 4:00 p.m.

Where: Twin Arrows Navajo Casino, 22181 Resort Boulevard, Flagstaff, AZ. (928) 856-7200

Plus Code: 857C 5P8R+X6 ; Travel arrangements and meals on your own

Who Should Attend?

- Navajo Nation divisions & departments; executive, legislative, & judicial branches
- Navajo Nation Chapters & Regional groups ; CLUP, LRAC, CERT, Veterans, Senior Centers, etc.
- United States – Indian Health Services & Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Area Office
- Indian Health Services – Healthcare Facilities (government & private)
- Navajo Tribal Utility Authority & Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority
- Navajo Agricultural Products Industry & Navajo Housing Authority
- Navajo Arts & Crafts and Navajo Gaming Enterprise and Influencers
- Navajo Nation Hospitality & KTNN / KWRK Radio Station and mass communication agencies
- Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company and Navajo Nation Shopping Centers.
- Navajo Times & other radio / news TV stations and non-profit organizations & businesses
- Tribal College and University – Dine' College & Navajo Technical University
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Grant Schools & BIE Schools & Faith-Based groups/organizations
- Local, Municipality, County, & State partners and US Census with any other interested parties

New online tool points consumers Native American-owned businesses

The RezRising website and phone app aims to not only draw attention to Native American entrepreneurs, but also change attitudes.

BY VANESSA BARCHFIELD

RezRising is meant to be a sort of Yelp for Native American-owned businesses.

It's geared both for members of Native communities who want to keep their business on the reservation and for other types of consumers.

"We have a ton of tourists traveling across the rez ever year. And when you look across the landscape you see Denny's, McDonald's, Taco Bell," said Heather Fleming, executive director of the business incubator Change Labs and a member of the Navajo Nation.

"In between all of those spaces, pretty much invisible, unless you know where you're going, there are tons of Native vendors too selling more authentic and traditional foods."

[Rezrising.org](https://www.rezrising.org) and the app include 533 of those until now hard to find native-owned businesses.

Fleming said she hopes to double the number of listings on the site but already there's much more to discover than food – including jewelers, filmmakers, even a personal running coach if you're looking for help with those New Year's resolutions.

Ultimately, the goal is to change attitudes on and off the reservation about what it means to be a business person.

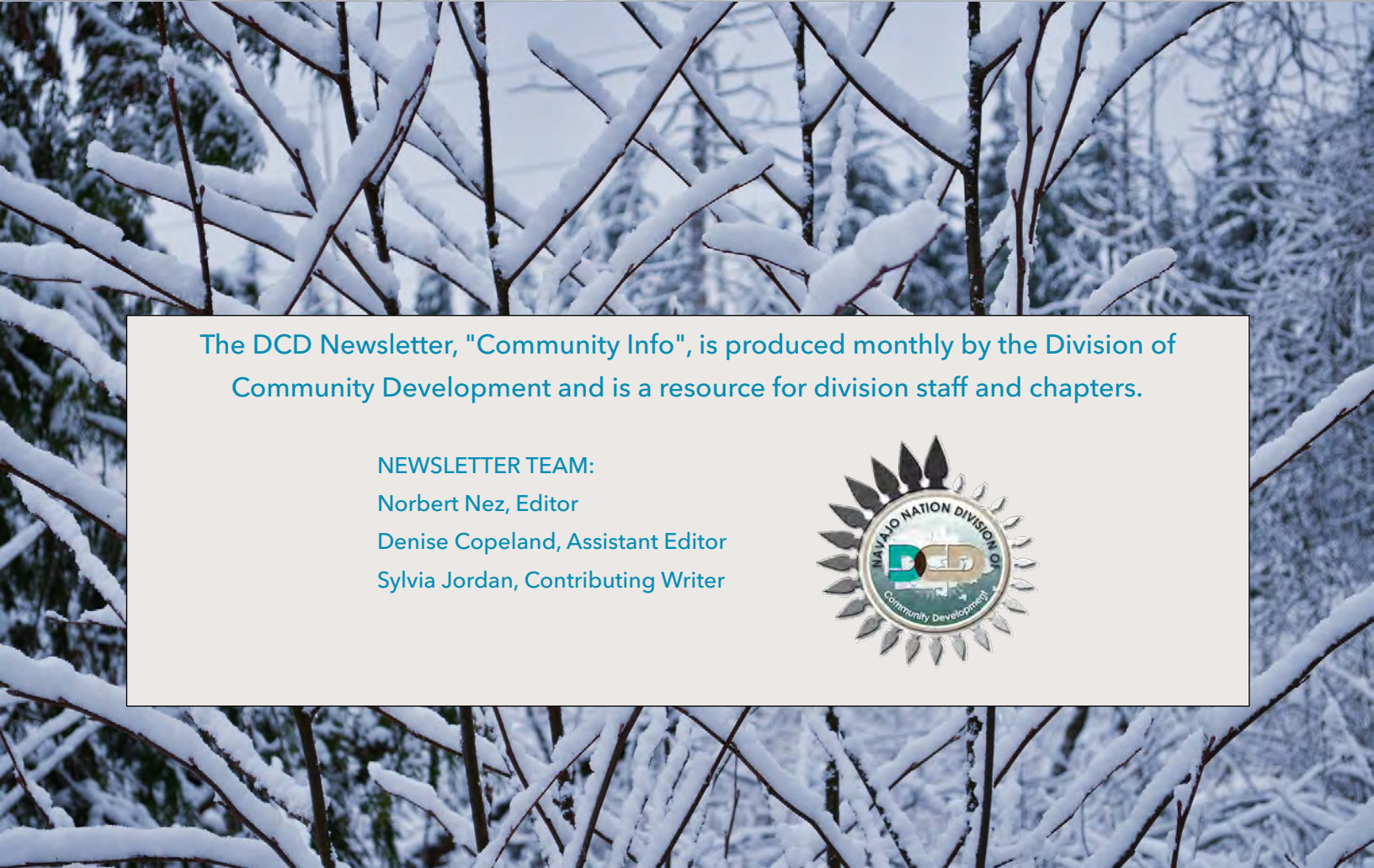
"There are people hustling on the roadsides, in the flea markets. People don't really see those vendors as



Kaibeto Kneel Down Bread vendor sells Navajo tamales in Kaibeto, Arizona.-- Courtesy Change Lab

entrepreneurs, but that's exactly what they are. So for us, RezRising is an advocacy tool to inform our leaders that we've counted 533 Native-owned businesses all across the Southwest, and here's how many are in your community."

READ MORE AT: <https://news.azpm.org/p/news-articles/2020/1/8/164019-new-online-tool-points-consumers-native-american-owned-businesses/?fbclid=IwAR2t8hMK3bVXt-TeKY-SxDczK9cZ-MHalpNN30NIBy0nE9Zqr--06SewWfE>



The DCD Newsletter, "Community Info", is produced monthly by the Division of Community Development and is a resource for division staff and chapters.

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

Norbert Nez, Editor

Denise Copeland, Assistant Editor

Sylvia Jordan, Contributing Writer

