



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

In this Issue

- Upper Fruitland Senior Center Dedication
- CPMD Hosts Chinle & Western Agency Sihanin Coordination Meetings
- Eastern Agency Council Meeting Held at Alamo Chapter
- DCD Holiday Social Event
- QPR Training Held for DCD Staff
- Tackling Hantavirus On Navajo Nation With The Healthy Homes, Healthy People Partnership
- Broadband internet access coming to Navajo Nation communities in San Juan County
- Study: Water Gap Found at Navajo Nation, Other U.S. Regions
- Be Prepared for a Winter Storm
- Bulletin Board
- Personnel News
- Pilot project on Navajo Nation will convert methane into hydrogen
- Navajo Nation Census Information Center News
- Tribal Technology Assessment: The State of Internet Service on Tribal Lands

Did You Know...

Hesperus Mountain or *Dibé Nitsaa* -- Big Mountain Sheep or Obsidian Mountain, is the Sacred Mountain of the North. It is located in the La Plata Mountains, a sub-range of the San Juans, and is north of Mancos, Colorado.

Events

December 2019: Nilch'itsoh-Big Winds

- December 7th: Pearl Harbor Remembrance
- December 22nd: Winter Begins
- December 24th: Christmas Eve
- December 25th: Christmas
- December 31st: New Year's Eve
- January 1st: New Year's Day

Upper Fruitland Senior Center Dedication

UPPER FRUITLAND -- A dedication of the New Upper Fruitland Senior Center was held on December 13, 2019 in Upper Fruitland, New Mexico. The Senior Center has been in the making for over 12 years. The project was funded from Abandoned Mine Land funds (\$400,000), State of New Mexico Aging & Long Term Services Department funds (\$122,000), Upper Fruitland Chapter funds and Navajo Nation Gaming funds (\$75,000). The cost of the building was approximately \$990,000.



The Upper Fruitland Senior Center will serve clients from three Chapters: Upper Fruitland, Nenahnezad and San Juan. The Upper Fruitland Chapter managed the project. Indigenous Design Studio+Architecture, LLC designed the senior center building and Arviso Construction Company, Inc. was the General Contractor. The chapter was assisted by Ms. Bernita Wheeler from the Division of Aging & Long Term Care Support (DALTCS) and Mr. Leon Spencer from Abandoned Mine Land to complete the project.

Chapter President Lynlaria Dickson welcomed and thanked the community seniors and other guests. She also thanked all those who assisted the chapter to complete the construction of the new center. In a letter, Anthony Allison, NM Representative Dist. 4, congratulated the chapter and asked that the community "continue to love, care for, and honor our senior citizens, not just today, but every day going forward". Jim Dumont, a representative for U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich's office, said, "You know, the elders took care of us when we were young and now, we are tasked to take care of them."

Congratulations to the Upper Fruitland Chapter and Senior Citizens!

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/36Sfq0e>



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

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CPMD Hosts Chinle & Western Agency Sihasin Coordination Meetings



Sihasin Project meetings were conducted by CPMD on Oct. 29-30 for Eastern, Northern, and Fort Defiance Chapters at San Juan College in Farmington, NM, and for Western and Chinle chapters on Dec. 5-6 at Twin Arrows Casino. DCD Executive Director, Dr. Pearl Yellowman, provided welcoming remarks at all the sessions. DCD managers were also provided the opportunity to introduce themselves and give updates on projects. In the afternoon, the CPMD and lead agencies sat down with chapters to provide more detailed information on chapter projects, including where the projects are at and what still needs to be done from all parties involved in the project. James Adakai, CPMD Manager noted, "CPMD finds the project coordination meetings with individual chapters beneficial and productive. It gives an opportunity for the chapter staff and officials to meet with CPMD Project Manager to review their projects".



Eastern Agency Council Meeting Held at Alamo Chapter



On Saturday, December 7, the Eastern Agency Council met at Alamo Chapter for their quarterly meeting. Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez delivered some opening remarks to the officials gathered. The Agency Council then began going through their agenda, listening to presentations and passing supporting resolutions for a number of initiatives. One of the issues that produced the most vocal responses was the issue of reducing the current 25-mile buffer zone around Chaco Canyon National Park to a 10-mile buffer zone. The agenda item related to this proposed further reduction of the 10-mile buffer to 5 miles. There were impassioned arguments for and against the proposed resolution. In the end, the Agency Council voted to request the 10-mile buffer to be further reduced to 5 miles.

Toward the end of the meeting, DCD was provided an opportunity to share division updates. Dr. Pearl Yellowman, DCD Executive Director, addressed the assembled officials and also gave some time to the DCD managers who were present to provide updates on their projects and departments.



DCD Holiday Social Event

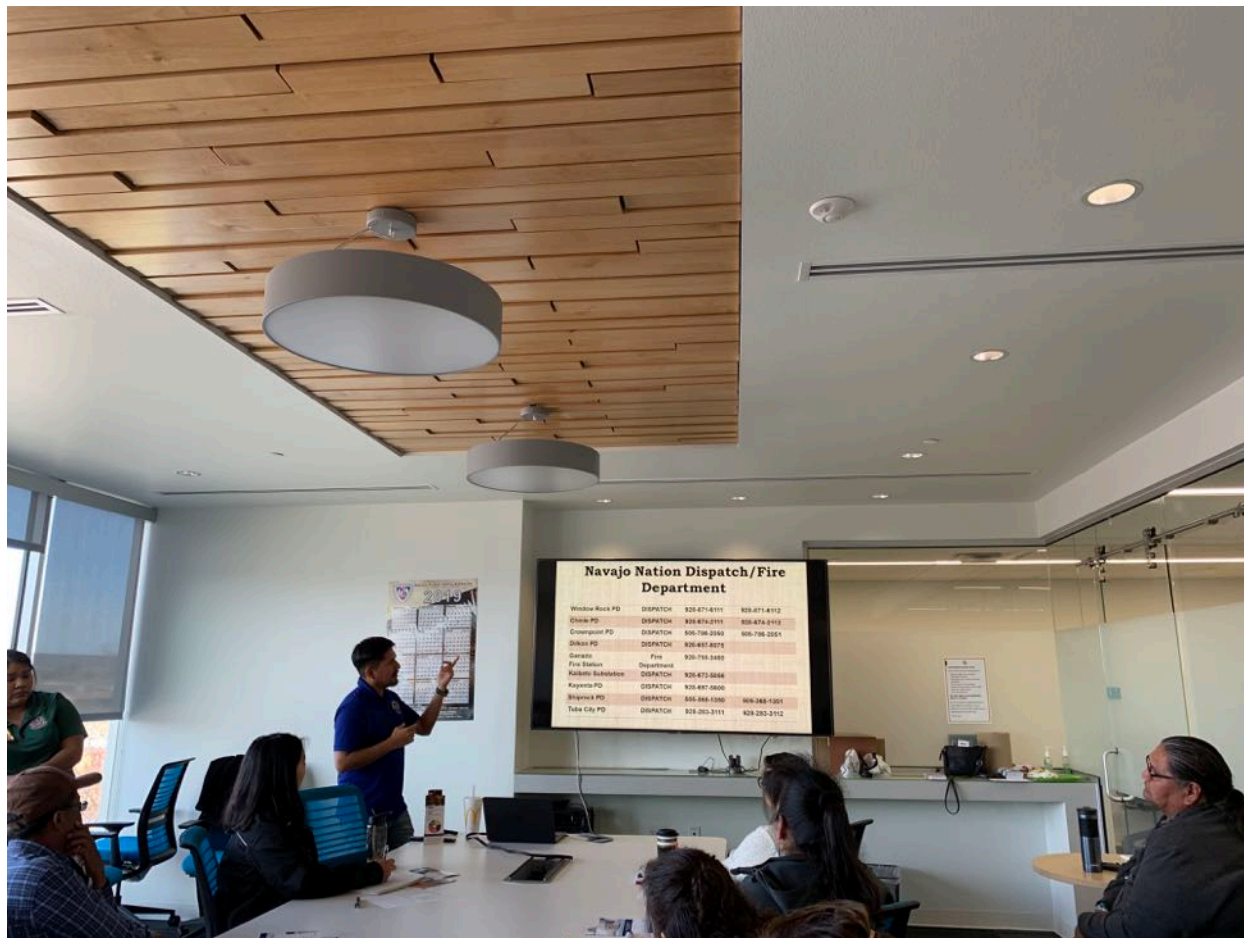


On Wednesday, November 27, DCD staff came together to have an informal holiday social event. The idea was to take a short break, have food, have fun, and socialize with fellow DCD employees that they may not have time to talk to normally. The food was prepared potluck style with everyone bringing a small dish, snacks or drinks. The mood was festive with laughter and discussion about events other than work.

With the work load that our DCD staff have, it is often too easy to get consumed with the day's tasks so it's good to take a break from work activities now and then to acknowledge each other and relax for a bit.

December 2019

QPR Training Held for DCD Staff



On December 3, representatives of the Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services provided a three hour training session to DCD staff on QPR suicide prevention. QPR stands for "Question. Persuade. Refer.", a method to try to help people who are contemplating suicide to find life-saving help. The QPR initiative attempts to give people the basic skills necessary to assist someone who needs help to find the help they need or at least to dissuade them from following through with their intentions of self-harm.

The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President have made it mandatory for all Navajo Nation Executive Branch staff to take the QPR training. Another QPR training was held for DCD staff on November 21.



TACKLING HANTAVIRUS ON NAVAJO NATION WITH THE HEALTHY HOMES, HEALTHY PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP

BY HELENE ERENBURG, MPA

NOVEMBER 22, 2019

Truly impactful, sustainable public health programs are nurtured and ultimately thrive at the intersection of public health science, community connection, strong partnership and the shared belief that together, our impact is greater.

The Healthy Homes, Healthy People (3HP) project is a unique example of such a collaboration. The program aims to reduce the risk of exposure to hantavirus among residents of Navajo Nation by providing rodent exclusion interventions and empowering residents to repair and reinforce their homes against rodents, and to increase awareness of hantavirus and its prevention among community members.

HANTAVIRUS: A QUICK OVERVIEW

The historical context behind this project is significant. In 1993, an outbreak of severe pulmonary disease in humans was reported on Navajo Nation. An investigation and laboratory testing confirmed the deer mouse, abundant in many parts of North America, was the rodent host for a newly recognized virus. Transmission of hantavirus to people can occur when fresh deer mouse urine, droppings or nesting materials are stirred up, for example, by sweeping up dust materials at home. Once the infectious process has begun, the cells lining the inside of the lung start to leak fluid into the airspaces, inhibiting breathing and, in the most severe cases, causing death.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to see human cases of hantavirus infection in the United States, including the severe form, called hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. Of the 728 cases reported in 36 states as of January 2017, 45 percent were reported in the “Four Corners” area shared by Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah—each part of, or adjacent to, Navajo Nation. Mortality rates for cases on Navajo Nation are approximately 44 percent.

Given the absence of a vaccine or other medication, prevention remains the most effective public health measure. In particular, rodent exclusion efforts in homes and buildings contribute significantly to keeping deer mice away from people.

PARTNERING TO SAVE LIVES

The 3HP program is a true partnership, bringing together the Littlewater Chapter of Navajo Nation, Navajo Epidemiology Center (NEC)/Navajo Department of Health, CDC’s Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology (DHCPP) and the CDC Foundation.

Ramona Antone Nez, NEC director, and Del Yazzie, NEC epidemiologist, together with scientists from CDC’s Viral Special Pathogen’s Branch, embarked on a plan to implement the rodent exclusion and education components of the intervention. And through generous funding and product donations from Reckitt Benckiser (RB), the CDC Foundation was able to purchase and procure project supplies, facilitate partnership building and provide program coordination.





Empowerment is a central theme woven throughout the 3HP project. To that end, local carpenters hired to work on the project teamed up with staff from the Navajo Epidemiology Center and CDC to create a slogan for the project: the symbolic equation shown above.

“Shá” to “Shí” roughly translates from Navajo to English as “do it for me, or help me” to “I can do it myself.” The denominator in the equation is the 3HP project, and the result is empowerment. The slogan and an accompanying illustration were also featured on team-designed t-shirts.

PROJECT PROGRESS TO DATE

As of November, all 100 eligible homes have been identified and assessed, with the majority of households having completed the initial survey and participated in the hantavirus education program.

Led by carpenters from the Littlewater Chapter, home repairs have been completed in 50 homes, with the hope to complete construction work in all 100 by the end of January 2020. “We all can learn from each other,” noted Genevieve Castillo, manager for Littlewater Chapter. “When we complete all 100 homes, that will be a great milestone. But it won’t end there—each family will share the learning and awareness with their children.”

Eleano Rivas, lead carpenter and Littlewater Chapter member, quickly realized this was no ordinary construction project. “When I first started, I thought this was just another job. But then I noticed that a lot of different people were coming together here and were involved. And I thought, I want to be a part of this team.” As lead carpenter, he is teaching other people to do the work themselves, so the learning will continue. “When I come to work, I come with my whole heart. Every day there is a different person to make happy.”

Sustainability and empowerment coexist at the heart of the 3HP project, with program activities including training local carpenters and data collectors in safe methods for detecting, assessing, reporting and repairing points of rodent entry, including disinfecting and removal of potentially infectious materials from homes. The 3HP project also includes an education and training component aimed at homeowners to empower them with the knowledge to safely and properly disinfect and dispose of rodent-infested materials.

The Littlewater Chapter was selected as the pilot site for the 3HP project, with the goal of implementing the intervention in 100 homes. The project began with a pre-program survey to assess community acceptance of the project and better understand awareness of hantavirus and rodent prevention; a post-program survey will be completed in spring 2020, at project’s end.

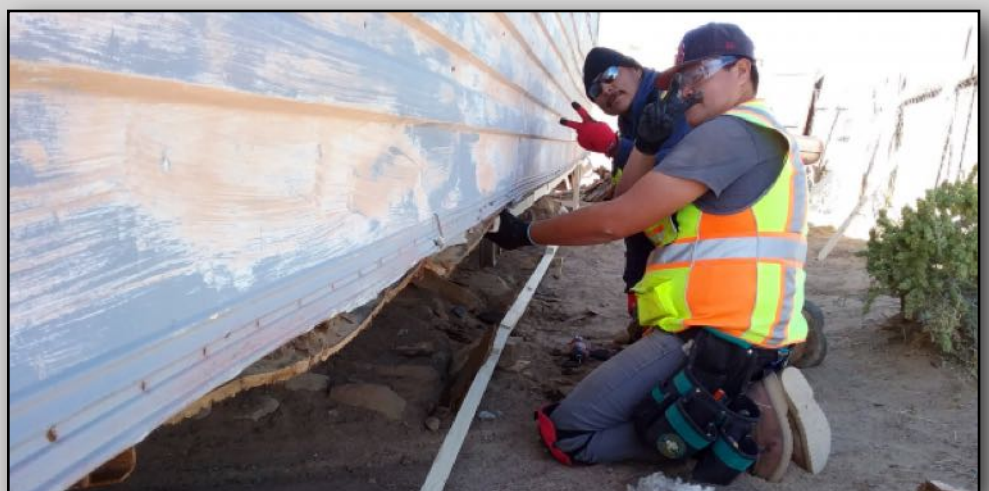
Perhaps the project is best summed up by a note from representatives of Littlewater Chapter and Navajo Epidemiology Center: “We’ve started to think of the 3HP project not so much as a project but as a coordinated act of kindness in which we all participated.” If successful, 3HP will lead to improved health outcomes and empowerment for current—and future—generations.

For additional information about the Healthy Homes, Healthy People project and opportunities for support, please contact Helene Erenberg at herenberg@cdcfoundation.org.

Read More At: <http://bit.ly/350zLQ9>



**Healthy
Homes,
Healthy
People
(3HP)**



Broadband internet access coming to Navajo Nation communities in San Juan County

By Zak Podmore · Published: November 15 · Updated: November 15, 2019

Bluff • The rural communities of White Mesa, Bluff and Montezuma Creek are scheduled to gain high-speed internet access next year as a \$17.5 million, multiagency project moves forward to bring fiber optic-based broadband to the southern part of San Juan County.

The first phase of the project will extend the fiber optic connection from Blanding, where it was installed in 2015, to Bluff and Montezuma Creek elementary schools.

The second phase, tentatively scheduled to begin in 2021, will bring broadband to the remote corners of the county, including the Navajo Nation towns of Oljato-Monument Valley and Navajo Mountain.

“It could be a game changer for our southern part of the county,” said San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams, a Republican from Monticello who worked to secure funding for the projects. “Without connectivity, you’re behind the line as far as opportunities in this world, and certainly we want the Navajo people to have the same connectivity opportunities as the rest of the world.”

Schools on the Navajo Nation and in Bluff currently have internet but only through lower bandwidth connections, which can mean slower speeds and more frequent outages.

“There haven’t been a lot of opportunities to help fund connectivity in some of these rural locations,” said Jeff Egly, associate director for the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN). “There are a lot of high-cost, low-population geographic challenges.”

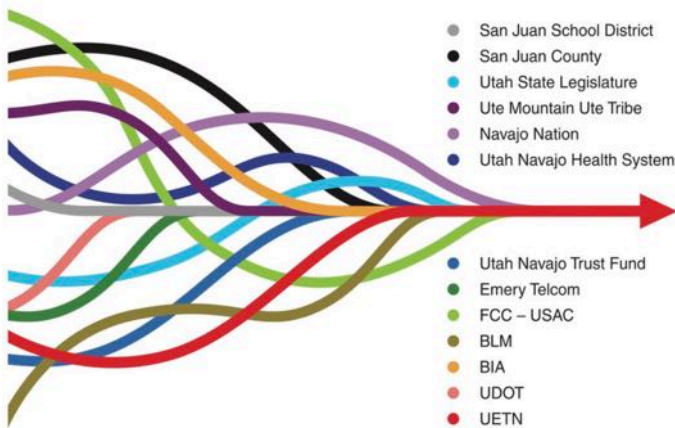
Those same challenges mean that even if broadband reaches the schools on the Navajo Nation, it is not likely to be immediately available to the thousands of remote residences, many of which still lack running water and electricity, let alone internet. Nonetheless, having the fiber

Broadband expansion project in San Juan County

Construction on a \$17.5 million project to bring high-speed broadband internet to Navajo Nation communities in southern San Juan County is expected to begin early next year.



optic lines in place is a necessary first step to future expansion.



(COURTESY OF THE UTAH EDUCATION AND TELEHEALTH NETWORK) A GRAPHIC REPRESENTING THE MANY ENTITIES COLLABORATING ON THE BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT IN SAN JUAN COUNTY.

Egly said UETN — a state entity that works to connect hospitals, K-12 schools and libraries to telecommunications services — was able to provide funding that allowed the project to tap into the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) E-Rate program, which is also designed to help connect schools and libraries to broadband.

The \$5 million required for the first phase of the project was finalized last year and the construction bid was awarded to Emery Telcom, a nonprofit, community-owned utilities cooperative.

Emery Telcom helped find a different grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will extend the lines from Bluff to all residences in Mexican Hat and Halchita as part of a \$2.5 million project.

The second phase of the UETN project, which will bring fiber optic lines from Halchita to Navajo Mountain, carries a hefty \$10 million price tag and requires construction through northern Arizona.

Last year, when Adams learned the final piece of the project was eligible for a 9-to-1 funding match from the FCC, he traveled to Salt Lake City and helped persuade the state Legislature to appropriate \$1 million to UETN so the project would qualify for the other \$9 million.

“If we get the [high-speed] internet to the schools, it wouldn’t be long until it would be available to the chapters and other places on the reservation,” Adams said, adding that the service could boost employment opportunities for residents.

“Once the fiber is down there, it will open the market to numerous providers,” said Brock Johansen, Emery Telcom’s CEO. For example, new cell towers could tap into the lines to provide high-speed data service. Navajo Nation utility providers could opt to sell internet services through the new lines.

Johansen’s company is also working on projects to bring fiber to residences in the small communities of La Sal and Castle Valley. “We really believe in serving these rural areas,” he said.

The next major hurdle in the southern San Juan County project is securing the necessary permitting, including a right-of-way agreement with the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe so construction can move ahead on tribal lands.

Adams met with Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and U.S. Rep. John Curtis, R-Utah, last month, and Adams said Nez is aware the right-of-way approval is approaching a deadline at the end of November.

The numerous grants involved each has its own expiration date, which puts pressure on advancing the collaborative process.

Richard Finlinson, associate communications director for UETN, said that permitting is a much slower part of the process than construction. He noted the large number of entities that are involved in the project, including San Juan County, Emery Telcom, state and federal agencies, communications agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, the Utah Department of Transportation, and two sovereign tribal nations.

“All of these pieces of the puzzle have to work together to make this happen,” Finlinson said. “Sometimes, you know, politically, you see nothing but contention. For this project, you have to have nothing but collaboration in order for it to come together. And I think it demonstrates a high level of collaboration.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2019/11/15/broadband-internet-access/>

Study: Water Gap Found at Navajo Nation, Other U.S. Regions

December 2, 2019

APACHE COUNTY, Ariz. – A report finds that several regions across the United States, including the Navajo Nation, lack access to clean water in many of their homes.

The study finds six areas that face a water crisis where running water or basic indoor plumbing is not available.

The study, Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States, says while the Navajo tribe owns water rights, a lack of funding keeps many of their citizens without basic services, where about 30% of the more than 330,000 residents on the reservation must drive for up to four hours to haul barrels of water to their homes.



Sarah Porter, director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at the Morrison Institute of Arizona State University, says a lack of resources along with inaction by the federal government keeps many Navajo from access to clean water.

"Typically, a tribe wants, in addition to a water right, funding for infrastructure so that they can actually benefit from that water," Porter explains. "It doesn't do any good to have a giant water right if you don't have the things you need to take advantage of the water."

The study was produced by DigDeep, a water access advocacy group, and the U.S. Water Alliance, a policy research organization.

In addition to the Navajo Nation, the report also profiles other areas lacking access to water, including parts of Appalachia, central California, rural Alabama, Puerto Rico and the colonias along the Texas-Mexico border.

The Indian Health Service estimates that it would cost \$200 million to provide basic water and sanitation access to all Navajo homes.

Porter adds that local politics often come into play, when residents are afraid of what they might lose if their leaders try to trade part of their water rights in exchange for infrastructure.

"People, as time passes, become dependent on the water supplies," she points out. "This is not only the case with the Navajo Nation. It's the case with water supplies all around the state. It becomes a lot harder to reach a settlement when you have greater and greater reliance on the same supplies of water."

The report points out that access to clean water and reliable sanitation currently is out of reach for 2 million Americans.

It shows that race is the strongest predictor of water access, that poverty is a key obstacle to water access and that the government does not keep accurate data on gaps in the U.S.

Mark Richardson, Public News Service - AZ

READ MORE AT: <https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2019-12-02/water/study-water-gap-found-at-navajo-nation-other-u-s-regions/a68482-1>



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.



FEMA

FEMA V-1014/June 2018

Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.



Greater risk



Can last a few hours or several days



Can knock out heat, power, and communication services

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Stay off roads.



Use generators outside only.

Stay indoors and dress warmly.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.

Prepare for power outages.



Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.



Check on neighbors.



Cell Phone Charger



First Aid Kit



Jumper Cables



Spare Tire



Flares



Water, Snacks

BUILDING AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT FOR YOUR CAR

WHY?

Because you never know when you will encounter winter weather or an emergency road closure

AMERICA'S PrepareAthon!



Full Tank of Gas



Sand or Kitty Litter



Mittens, Hat, Boots Warm Clothes



Flashlight

Snow Shovel and Brush



Blankets



Tow Rope

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A WINTER STORM THREATENS



Know your area's risk for winter storms. Extreme winter weather can leave communities without utilities or other services for long periods of time.

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full.

Learn the signs of and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia. For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.html.



Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, stay inside.

Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

Reduce the risk of a heart attack. Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia and begin treatment right away.

Check on neighbors. Older adults and young children are more at risk in extreme cold.



Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers, and toes.

- **Signs:** Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, and firm or waxy skin.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.



Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov** and search for **winter storm**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **winter storm**.



INCLUDE MEDICATIONS AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!
BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

Bulletin Board

Albuquerque GigaPoP Expands Network Services to Navajo Nation

Albuquerque GigaPoP (ABQG) has expanded network services to two Navajo Nation educational institutions in the state of New Mexico. Navajo Preparatory School, also known as Navajo Prep, and Navajo Technical College (NTC) have acquired telecommunication services and Internet access to advance education and research. Both schools serve a diverse population of American Indian students who travel from areas located in and around the Four Corners region of the state and from other American Indian tribal communities.

Both schools are now members of ABQG's List of Collaborators and have access to commodity internet. NTC and Navajo Prep are now equipped with reliable, efficient, and affordable technology to create new tools to deliver education, enhance curriculums, and extend networks to the un-served and underserved in their areas, continuing the mission of ABQG—to enhance education and research.

New Mexico remains a mostly rural state with major population centers in seven separate areas spread throughout the state. The ABQG vision includes support the Wire New Mexico initiative bringing Internet connectivity to all of New Mexico with the help of ABQG participants. State-wide networking reduces the amount of "hops" (routers determining traffic flow) around the nation on the Internet by keeping the network traffic in-state. By developing these types of collaborations, leveraging technological assets, reducing duplication and sharing large bandwidth access, ABQG is assisting in "unleashing new waves of innovation" to encourage network access to rural locations throughout the State of New Mexico.

About: Located in Farmington, New Mexico, a few miles outside the Navajo Nation, Navajo Prep is the only Navajo sanctioned, college preparatory school for American Indians. With a 90% success rate of students attending higher education, the school offers an advanced curriculum in science, math and technology, along with the traditional academic subjects. Based on the foundation of Navajo (Diné) philosophy and a strong appreciation of the Navajo language, culture, and history, Navajo Prep students are equipped with the skills and knowledge to become leaders of their people and role models for future generations.

Formerly known as Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT), Navajo Technical College (NTC) is a two-year tribal technical college located in a quiet rural area in Crownpoint, NM on the Navajo Nation. With campuses in Crownpoint, NM and Chinle, AZ, NTC offers a variety of courses, programs, and services to meet an individual's needs to earn a certificate or associate degree. Recently, NTC received approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NLC-NCA) to provide two (2) four-year degree programs: Applied Science degree in Information Technology and Registered Nursing. These new bachelor degree programs will meet the demands for jobs involving the computer sciences, information technology, digital media and registered nursing.

About the Albuquerque GigaPoP: ABQG is a state-of-the-art interconnection facility established by the Information Technologies group at the University of New Mexico in collaboration with New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Council for Higher Education Computing Communication Services (CHECS) and the New Mexico State Agency of IT. It is designed to serve research and education programs in New Mexico. ABQG is the on-ramp for high speed National Networks. These high speed networks are the National Lambda Rail and Internet2. Additionally, access is available to commodity Internet and peering to keep in-state traffic local.



James D. Zwierlein becomes the official Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer finalized a contract on Monday for James D. Zwierlein, who has served as the acting director since July, to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, which was completed in consultation with the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.

"Mr. Zwierlein's military background and knowledge will be very beneficial for the Nation as we work with federal and state agencies and Navajo veterans organizations to assist and empower our veterans on the Navajo Nation," said President Nez.

Zwierlein has resided in Nahodishgish, N.M. for nearly four years with his wife Marie Zwierlein and their two children. Prior to his appointment, Zwierlein served as an Executive Staff Assistant with the Office of the President and Vice President and was assigned to work on housing issues, which included veterans housing.

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/2P3ODGO>

Bulletin Board

Trump signs executive order creating task force on missing and murdered Native Americans

BY GRACE SEGERS, CBS – President Trump signed an executive order establishing a task force to address the rash of violence against missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska natives, an issue the administration has been focusing on in recent months. The executive order comes after Attorney General William Barr's rollout of a nationwide plan on Friday.

Mr. Trump was joined by Barr and several administration officials when signing the executive order, as well as a number of Native American tribal leaders. Mr. Trump told reporters present that executive action on the issue "should've been done a long time ago."

Shannon Holsey, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, said in a statement after the executive order was signed that it was an "important first step."

"While there is so much that needs to be done to stop the violence perpetrated on Native women and girls, I appreciate the Administration for taking an important first step in establishing this Task Force," Holsey said.

The order created an interagency task force which will be led by the Department of Justice and Department of the Interior.

Barr announced the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative during a visit with tribal leaders and law enforcement officials on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. The initiative will invest \$1.5 million in hiring specialized coordinators in the offices of 11 U.S. attorneys who will be responsible for coming up with protocols for a more coordinated response to violence against indigenous people.

The plan also allows tribal or local law enforcement to seek help from the FBI, and the Justice Department is committing to conducting an in-depth review of federal databases to determine best practices for collecting data on missing indigenous persons.

"American Indian and Alaska Native people suffer from unacceptable and disproportionately high levels of violence, which can have lasting impacts on families and communities," Barr said in a statement on Friday. "Too many of these families have experienced the loss of loved ones who went missing or were murdered."

Native American women experience some of the highest rates of domestic violence and murder in the country. Over 5,700 American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls were reported missing as of 2016, according to the National Crime Information Center, but only 116 of those cases were logged with the Department of Justice. Eighty-four percent of Native American women experience violence in their lifetime, according to the National Institute of Justice. A 2008 study found that women in some tribal communities are 10 times more likely to be murdered than the national average.

READ MORE AT: <https://cbsn.ws/2DCjvZJ>

Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe working together to improve Hopi Route 60

POLACCA, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Speaker Seth Damon, and Hopi Tribal Vice Chairman Clark W. Tenakhongva met in Polacca, Ariz. near the First Mesa on the Hopi Tribal lands on Wednesday, where they offered their support to move forward with improvements to Hopi Route 60 – a 13-mile stretch of dirt road that connects the Navajo community of Low Mountain and the Hopi community of Polacca.

President Nez said that Hopi Route 60 serves as a significant corridor for residents, school buses, first responders, tourists, and many others daily. He added that for the Navajo and Hopi communities to grow economically and for the benefit of residents, both sides would have to make compromises and work together for the long-term.

"I appreciate the Hopi Tribe's willingness to work together. Under our combined leadership, we can present a stronger and united voice at the county, state, and federal levels to advocate for the completion of Hopi Route 60," said President Nez.

For many years, the route has been in great need of maintenance and pavement to serve the communities better. Several years ago, the Arizona State Legislature approved \$1.5 million for the road. However, according to Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, it would cost approximately \$35 million to pave the route.

Silversmith recommended that the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe begin by entering into an Inter-Governmental Agreement. He said the NDOT is willing to provide technical assistance to update existing design plans for the roadway and to seek additional funds. He also stated that the \$1.5 million could contribute to making improvements such as the installation of two low water crossings, graveling, and chip sealing.

Hopi Tribal Vice Chairman Clark W. Tenakhongva said that paving the route would also help the communities to recover some of the revenue lost by the closure of Kayenta Mine and the Navajo Generating Station by creating a corridor for business development. He also spoke in support of continuing to partner with the Navajo Nation on other initiatives that benefit both tribes.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., who represents the Low Mountain community as a member of the Navajo Nation Council, said he's ready to see the tribes take action by collaborating and sharing expertise and resources. Last week, President Nez nominated Delegate Begay to serve as the co-chair of the Tribal Interior Budget Council's Road Maintenance Subcommittee, which may also help in securing road funds.

Arizona State Rep, Arlando Teller (D-Dist. 7), a member of the Navajo Nation, was also in attendance and offered his recommendations, which included meeting with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey to address the road issues. He also said that he would be introducing a bill in the upcoming State Legislative session to provide more resources for Hopi Route 60.

Navajo County Supervisors Jesse Thompson and Lee Jack, Sr. also attended Wednesday's meeting to offer their support. Supervisor Thompson said he looks forward to joining the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe in lobbying at the state level when the State Legislature begins its session in January.

"With today's meeting, we've established a positive path forward for the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and Navajo County to work together with the support of Rep. Teller to identify funding sources and other resources to fund Hopi Route 60," said President Nez.

The group is tentatively scheduled to meet again in December to continue discussions.

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

PERSONNEL NEWS

DCD OPEN POSITIONS

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PAY RATE</u>	<u>CLOSING DATE</u>
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Administrative Service Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Black Mesa, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Rock Point, AZ	25,854.40	12/19/2019
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)	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

Construction Supervisor (S)	Window Rock, AZ	36,462.40	12/16/2019
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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



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Be still and the earth will speak to you.”

Navajo Saying

Pilot project on Navajo Nation will convert methane into hydrogen



By Amy Joi O'Donoghue@Amyjoi16 Nov 25, 2019, 12:11pm MST

SALT LAKE CITY — The Navajo Nation is hopeful a pilot project south of Bluff in San Juan County will help transform the state's poorest county by delivering new jobs and producing a commodity it can sell on the market.

Beyond its economic punch, the project will deliver environmental benefits by taking a wasted stream of methane gas flared from the Tohonadla Oil Field and transform it into hydrogen.

"I see the Navajo Nation being a leader in hydrogen production," said Dory Peters, president and CEO of Big Navajo Energy.

Peters was one of several people at a Monday press conference at the state Capitol to detail the pilot project and its next steps.

"The Navajo Nation sees the vision," Peters said. "Our intent is to be one of the largest hydrogen producers."

Peters was joined by William D. McCabe, technology officer with Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Inc., Johnpaul Quick, CEO of H2GO, Laura Nelson, Gov. Gary Herbert's energy adviser and director of the Governor's Office of Energy Development as well as Sen. David Hinkins, R-Orangeville, who represents San Juan County.

"It's a monumental, unique event that we are here to celebrate," Nelson said. "It is really a story of innovation."

McCabe said the Navajo Nation has been long considered an energy tribe, with one third of the nation's disposable income derived from natural resource extraction such as oil and gas development and coal mining.

The so-called stranded gasses, aside from being bad for the environment, are a lost source of revenue, he said.

"It is a resource that is going up in smoke, if you will. Now we are able to capture this and convert it into the fuel of the future," he said, adding that the project is in the design phase now, but in a few months will be capturing the gas.

Hinkins also extolled the benefits of hydrogen as a clean fuel source that will be increasingly turned to for vehicle fleets.

He pointed to Nikola Motor, which got its start in Utah and is now in Arizona, and its development of a hydrogen-electric semi truck.

Anheuser-Busch made its first delivery with one of the trucks last week and has an order for 800 of the zero-emission trucks in its goal to reduce 25% of its carbon footprint by 2025.

McCabe said the Navajo Nation has 60 convenience stores that he hopes will carry the hydrogen fuel.

Peters added the project fits into the desire by Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez to create green space and a clean energy economy.

"This offers clean solutions for our people of the Navajo Nation," he said.

Ultimately, the desire is to capture all flared methane — an estimated 80,000 cubic feet per day that is a wasted stream of revenue.

The nation produces about 15,000 barrels of oil per day.

McCabe said there's an estimated 3 billion to 5 billion barrels of oil, 2 trillion to 3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 6 billion cubic feet of helium in the ground of the Navajo Nation — a resource that will provide 50 years of development opportunity.

The announcement of the pilot project was made in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

"It's about tribal self determination," Nelson said.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2019/11/25/20982191/pilot-project-on-navajo-nation-will-convert-methane-into-hydrogen>

Population Count Will Inform How and Where Billions of Dollars Will Be Spent for the Next Decade

AMERICA COUNTS STAFF | DECEMBER 04, 2019

Next time you're on your morning commute, merging on to a freeway or crossing a bridge, think of the decennial census.

Your responses to the 2020 Census, which includes every person living in the United States, may help decide when and where roads and bridges will be built in your community.

Billions of dollars in federal funds (more than \$675 billion) are spent annually on critical transportation services in communities across the country, including maintenance and construction of roads and bridges. The decennial census count will inform spending decisions for the next decade.

Among the federal programs tied to census statistics are the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Highway Planning and Construction program and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grants.

The impact of just these two programs is staggering.

In 2015 alone, the DOT distributed more than \$38 billion through the Highway Planning and Construction program, the fourth largest amount of federal assistance informed by census statistics that year.

The annual HUD grants also provide billions in discretionary funding that local governments can choose to use to improve their infrastructure.

Both programs support construction and maintenance of the country's 4.1 million miles of public roads, which the American Society of Civil Engineers has said are in such poor shape that they earned a "D" in its 2017 nationwide Infrastructure Report Card.

Funding from those federal programs—as well as state tax revenues allocated locally using census statistics—are critical in states such as Utah, which reports spending more than \$350 million in federal highway funds in 2017.

"Since the 2010 Census, Utah has been the fastest-growing state in the nation," said Evan Curtis, co-chair of the Utah Statewide Complete Count Committee, which is working to educate Utahns about the importance of responding to the census. "Along with the population growth comes a lot of development and change, and that of course increases pressure on our transportation systems, both on our roads and transit systems."

That's why, he said, "it's especially critical that we have an understanding of how our population has changed and make sure that the funding is keeping up with those growing populations."

How Census Statistics Support Road Planning and Funding

In addition to federal programs, Census Bureau population statistics also inform how states spend their own funds on transportation infrastructure.

Many states rely on population numbers from the census taken once every 10 years to allocate revenue from gasoline sales taxes, one of the primary sources of funding for local roads. In Utah, for example, allocation of gas tax revenue is based on a weighted formula based on two figures: 50% population size, 50% on the miles of road in the area.

"Because 50% is based on population and we're using census numbers, any undercount would have a big impact," Curtis said.

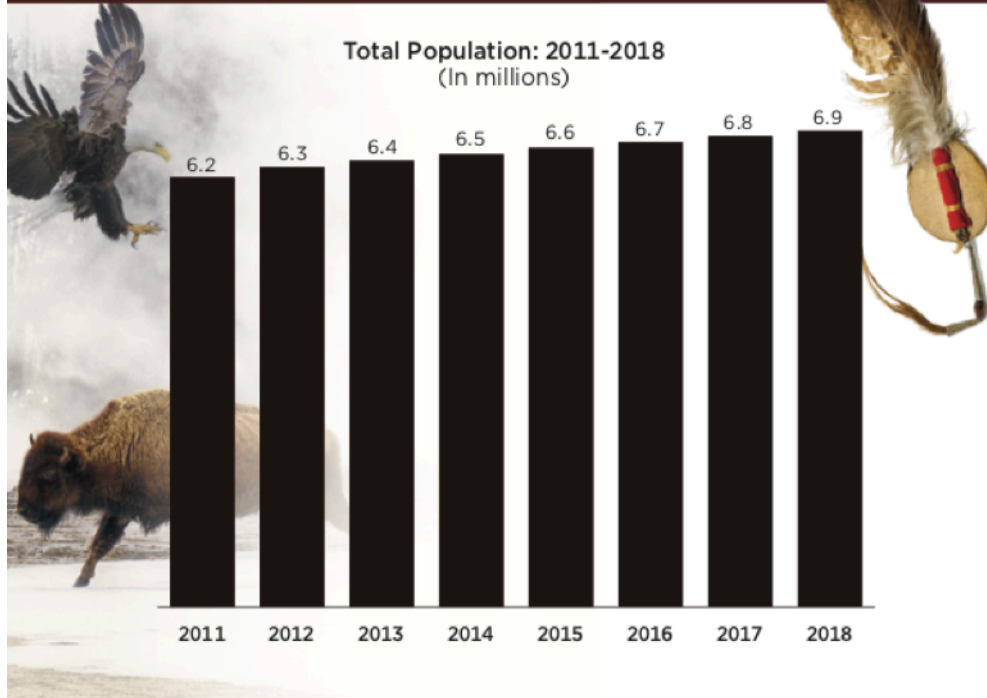
To support transportation planning at the state and local levels, the Census Bureau tabulates data from its American Community Survey, an ongoing nationwide survey of a small percentage of the population, for use by the Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) program. The CTPP is a cooperative initiative funded by state transportation departments.

CTPP data sets provide both state transportation departments and metropolitan planning organizations information about daily commutes, vehicle availability, and other demographics that can inform what transportation infrastructure is needed and where.

The Highway Planning and Construction program helps states plan, build, improve, and maintain their portions of the National Highway System, while funds from Community Development Block Grants are used by communities to build and repair streets, bridges, and alleys.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/12/2020-census-count-guides-funding-of-new-roads-and-bridges.html>

American Indian and Alaska Native Population Growth

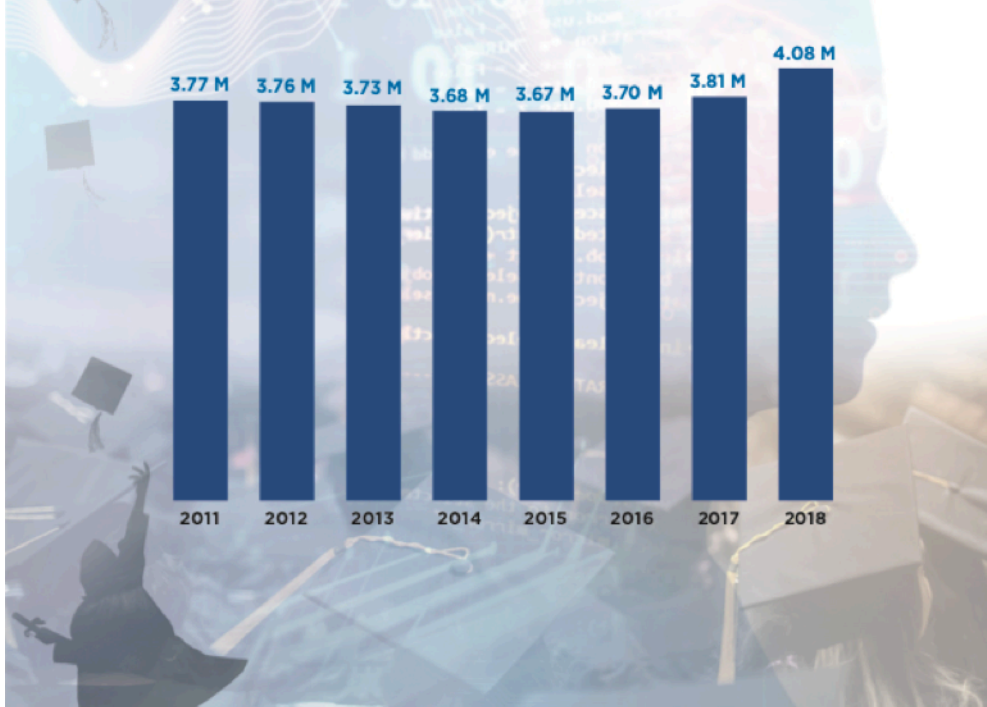


United States
Census
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Source: Vintage 2018 Population Estimates
www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

Graduate School Enrollment on the Rise



United States
Census
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Source: Current Population Survey, 2011-2018
www.census.gov/topics/education/school-enrollment.html

Tribal Technology Assessment: The State of Internet Service on Tribal Lands

BRIAN HOWARD AND TRACI MORRIS, TRIBAL TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT: THE STATE OF INTERNET SERVICE ON TRIBAL LANDS (JULY 27, 2019)

Access to high-speed Internet service has become an essential component to the nation's economy, education, and healthcare. However, federal data continues to show tribal lands are the least connected areas of the country. AIPI launched a survey to collect information from residents of tribal reservations to determine what levels of Internet access they had and what types of devices they using to access it. The study also identified potential barriers to access, such as the lack of availability or its unaffordability for residents to purchase.

Our survey found that residents on tribal lands are predominantly using smartphones to access the internet, while many are also accessing it through public Wi-Fi or at a friend/relative's house. However, the data should not be interpreted or used to defend "mobile only" as the singular solution to providing internet service. In this study 50% of respondents stated that their internet use was limited because they did not have enough data in their cell phone plan. Further research is needed to ascertain if there are specific limitations of mobile use in certain situations, such as the reliability or preference of using mobile over hardline connections for certain activities.

Here are a few highlights of the results:

WHAT IS THE TRIBAL TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT?

The purpose of AIPI's research study Tribal Technology Assessment: The State of Internet Service on Tribal Lands (TTA) was to create the first academic and replicable quantitative study of broadband access, device use, and uses of the internet by Tribal peoples on Tribal lands.

WHAT DID THE TTA FIND?

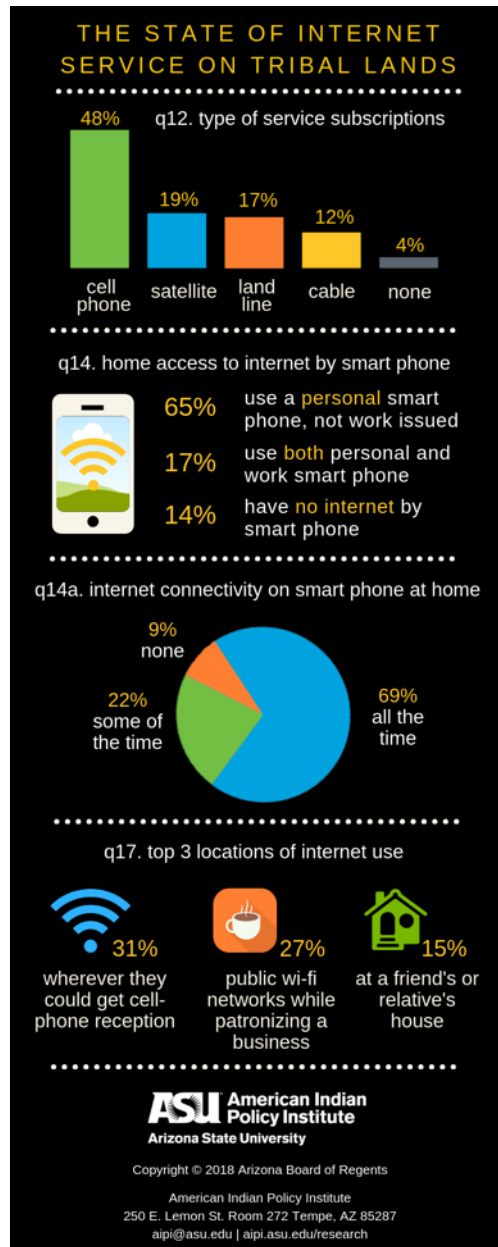
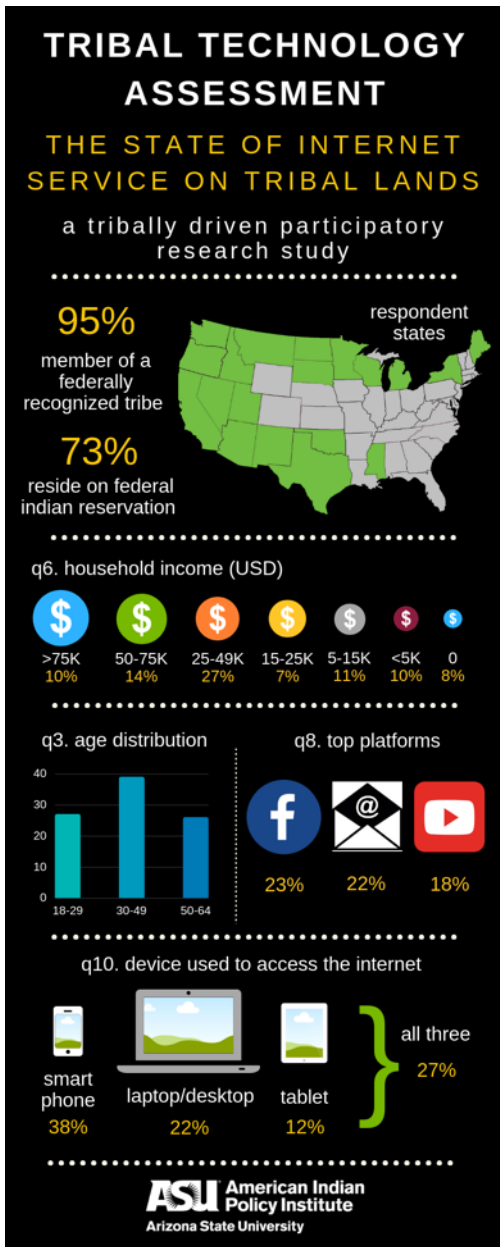
Like a canyon separating those with and without high-speed internet, the Digital Divide has prevented Native Americans from participating in national economic activity on par with their non-Native peers.

Overall, the findings indicate that respondents on Tribal lands are using smart phones as a primary means of accessing the internet. The data clearly show that mobile is preferred purely because there is no other choice—Indian Country has adapted to the only available option.

But mobile devices should never be the sole gateway of internet access. Rather, a broad ecosystem of telecommunications services, including high-capacity at-home wired broadband, is needed to appropriately and adequately address the Digital Divide in Indian Country.

ONLY THE BEGINNING

There is a scarcity of consistent and reliable federal data that can provide an accurate assessment of internet access on Tribal lands. Further, there is no current research on the affordability of broadband access on Tribal lands. This study extends the limited understanding we currently have. The TTA has created a new baseline for future studies with the expectation of measuring and comparing data in coming years.



December 2019

Happy Holidays

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

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