



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

AUGUST 2021

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Did You Know...

For more than 20 years, the Navajo Code Talkers couldn't speak about or receive recognition for their contributions during World War II. Only in 1968 was the program declassified. August 14, 1982 was declared by then-President Ronald Reagan as Navajo Code Talkers' Day. In 2000, the original 29 code talkers were awarded the Congressional Gold Medals. In 2007, all surviving code talkers were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Events:

August: Biniant'aats'ozi - "Ripening of Early Crops"

August 14: Navajo Code Talkers Day

August 26: Women's Equality Day

September: Bini'anit'áátsoh- "Ripening of Late Crops"

September 9: Labor Day

September 12: Grandparents Day

September 22: Hobbit Day

September 25: National Public Lands Day

CHID New Home Completion



NEW HOMEOWNERS IN COYOTE CANYON PROUDLY DISPLAY THEIR CERTIFICATE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP. HOUSING CONSTRUCTED BY CHID DEPARTMENT.



Ella Spencer – Coyote Canyon, NM

The Housing Improvement Program (HIP) under the Community Housing & Infrastructure Department (CHID) began construction on a new 1 bedroom/1 bathroom home in Coyote Canyon on April 6, 2021. The HIP construction crew worked non-stop through the COVID-19 pandemic, severe weather conditions, and material shortage to complete this home, but through it all they were able to complete and have the final inspection on July 6, 2021. After the walk-thru final inspection was complete, the HIP construction crew supervisor, William Nelson, provided Ella Spencer the homeowners certificate and keys to her new home. Below is a photo of her previous home.

A huge thank you to the HIP staff for their continued hard work and dedication in providing new homes to Navajo families.



Heavy Equipment Updates



Heavy Equipment Policies and Procedures now available on nndcd.org website and you can click--> [HERE](#)

July - August Deliveries

July 28, 2021 - Lechee Chapter: Backhoe

July 28, 2021 - Tonalea Chapter: Backhoe

July 29, 2021 - Sanostee Chapter: Backhoe

August 4, 2021 Oljato Chapter: Backhoe

August 9, 2021 - Nahodishgish Chapter: Backhoe

August 11, 2021 - Burnham Chapter: Backhoe/Motor Grader

August 11, 2021 - Hardrock Chapter: Motor Grader

August 18, 2021 - Shiprock Chapter: Heavy Duty Truck

August 18, 2021 - Shiprock Chapter:: Water Truck

August 18, 2021 - Naschitti Chapter: Motor Grader

August 9, 2021 - Nahodishgish Chapter: Backhoe Truck

August 24, 2021 - Nageezi Chapter: Motor Grader



August 2021



Heavy Equipment Training

Whitecone Chapter August 19, 2021



Whitecone, Ariz. - In a joint effort for chapter heavy equipment operators, Capital Projects Management Department and Administrative Service Centers (Dilkon, Kayenta, and Tuba City) provided an all-day training at Whitecone Chapter. Adam Whitford, General Manager, and Alex Santiago, Sales Representative, came out from Flagstaff RDO to provide training at the request of Elmer Johnson, Heavy Equipment Project Manager, and chapter staff. Due to COVID restrictions, two separate staff training classes took place simultaneously with staff safely distanced during the classroom demonstration and hands-on training. Some of the chapters represented were: Shonto, Indian Wells, Hardrock, Inscription House, Chilchinbeto, Kaibeto, Tonalea, Leupp, Kayenta, and Dilkon. It was a good weather day and attendees were treated to lunch, hosted by Whitecone Chapter.



NDOT crews continue to respond to road repair needs caused by heavy rainfall

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Division of Transportation work crews are on the ground in various communities on the Navajo Nation, working to repair and restore roads that have been damaged due to heavy rainfall in certain regions. As of Sunday, NDOT crews have repaired washed out dirt roads within the communities of Tohatchi, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Pine Springs, Torreon, and Burnt Corn. Work continues on roads in several other communities.

Throughout the weekend, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer also met with the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, Division Directors, and representatives from several counties to receive updates and to ensure that road repairs continue, to

mobilize Community Health Representatives to check on elders and disabled residents, and to coordinate other resources such as sandbags, bottled water, and other essential items and supplies.

“We are very thankful for the much-needed moisture that we’ve received recently. It is a blessing for our land, crops, livestock and animals, and all five-fingered beings. With that, comes certain challenges and our team has been on the ground working to repair roads as quickly as possible. We are thankful to the residents, chapters, Council Delegates, and others who have reached out to our Administration and NDOT to provide information so that we can deploy personnel and resources including heavy equipment. On Monday, we will provide an opportunity for all 110 chapters to hear from our team, county officials, and emergency response personnel,” said President Nez.

NDOT was unable to complete repairs in one remote area of Wide Ruins due to heavy mud that made the area inaccessible, but crews will return this week to proceed with road repairs. NDOT Executive Director Garret Silversmith is also working with county officials to coordinate more road repairs and to gather and distribute sandbags for certain areas that are in need.

“The personnel on the ground are responding as quickly as they can. Once they complete repairs to one road, they are off to the next. So, we ask for everyone’s patience and understanding while road crews continue the work. Our prayers for moisture were heard and we are thankful, but we all have to work together now to support one another,” said Vice President Lizer.

Officials are also assessing several dams, including the Winslow Levee, that are being monitored due to excessive amounts of water pressure. Officials are also cautioning the public of weather forecasts that indicate more rainfall in the next few days and high temperatures later in the week for many parts of the Navajo Nation and surrounding communities.

On Monday at 10:00 a.m. (MDT), the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President will host a virtual meeting and will invite county officials, chapter officials, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and state emergency officials to provide updates and coordinate additional resources.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3A21xuT>



Many Farms Looking to Capture Rainwater for Agriculture Use



MANY FARMS, Ariz. — Last week, Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain) met with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources (DNR), Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), and Many Farms Chapter Officials to visit the Diversion Dam structure within the Many Farms Community.

Dr. Johnson Bia, Irrigation Supervisor from the Department of Water Resources led an on- site tour of the dam. The group visited the feeder gate, sluice gate concrete unit, Chinle wash upstream channels and the reservoir.

With the recent amount of rainfall on the Navajo Nation, the Many Farms Community is looking to re-examine the Diversion Dam to maximize the rainwater collected during times of drought.

“The existing work to identify capturing water is a good recommendation and task at hand, including the water projects pending. We may be over budget, however will seek to congress and Washington D.C. level with recommendations from the BIA Office of the Interior, on the current status of revitalization irrigation, farmland conditions, infrastructure, and water shed projects,” said delegate Begay. “We will request to BIA continued guidance in our initiatives as we collaborate with the chapters, Central Navajo Agency, and Navajo Nation Departments.”

Many Farms relies on the water run-off from the winter and monsoon seasons for farming practices and the leaders requested a study for water shed projects to be established within the community. The study will identify the prime locations to capture water to recharge the underground aquifers.

“The Navajo Nation also needs to develop watershed projects at certain parts of the reservation,” said DNR Director Dr. Rudy Shebala. “While we utilize surface water, watershed projects will help capture water and help recharge underground aquifers.”

The recapturing of rain water will reestablish Many Farms as the agriculture hub it once was in the 1930’s. The surrounding mountains divert rain water run-off to Many Farms and the natural drainage systems will need to be reexamined to determine the amount of water needed to support agricultural businesses.

BIA currently collaborates with departments of the Navajo Nation to promote the best agricultural practices by educating farmers. BIA is continuously visiting the departments and communities before the funding timeline closes out.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3yHUjvX>

Tribes cheer withdrawal of 2 Little Colorado hydropower projects but fear a 3rd

Debra Utacia Krol -- Arizona Republic

August 5, 2021

A developer has withdrawn two of the three proposals to build a series of hydroelectric dams in the Little Colorado River watershed, projects that had drawn opposition from several tribes and environmentalists.

Phoenix-based Pumped Hydro Storage LLC relinquished preliminary permits for the Salt Trail Canyon and Little Colorado River proposals on July 26. The company told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that "the study requirements and eventual environmentalist opposition makes investing resources in this project a very high risk."

The company left in place an application for a third proposal in nearby Big Canyon.



The Salt Trail Canyon project would have involved building two dams on the Little Colorado River four miles upstream from the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers and about 16 miles northwest of Cameron, in the western reach of the Navajo Nation.

The two dams would have created reservoirs to generate electricity on an as-needed basis. The upper reservoir would

have served as an aquatic "battery" as the water flowed down a 3,000-foot drop through turbines, which would then pump water back up to the upper reservoir to recreate the storage.

The U.S. Department of Energy refers to this system as an "open loop" system because the dams and reservoirs are connected to a naturally flowing water source.

That area is held as sacred or culturally vital to several tribes, including the Navajo, Hopi and Zuni peoples. The Little Colorado River is also prime habitat for the threatened humpback chub and other species. Several tribes and environmental groups filed objections to the project.

The Little Colorado River Project was similar to the Salt Trail Canyon project but was located farther away from the confluence.

The third proposal, which is awaiting action by the commission, is known as the Big Canyon Project. It would be a "closed loop" system, with no existing surface water source involved. The project would consist of a 400-foot-high concrete dam in Big Canyon, a side canyon to the Little Colorado River and three smaller dams above the canyon. The four dams would require 73,000 acre-feet of water to operate.

The complex would also include ancillary structures like concrete spillways — known as penstocks — a large concrete powerhouse with nine 400-kilowatt pump-turbine generators and a 14-mile-long transmission line to connect with existing lines that served the now-closed Navajo Generating Station.

The company proposed drilling wells to bring groundwater to fill the reservoirs using three wells with 700-horsepower pumps. The system would work at night to generate electricity, which Pumped Hydro Storage said would supplement solar power generated during the day.

The company estimated that the project could generate 7,900 gigawatt-hours per year.

Hydropower is 'a proven technology'

Steve Irwin, manager of Pumped Hydro Storage, said the power would be offered on the wholesale electric market.

He said he thinks the Big Canyon project will be more

acceptable to the Navajo Nation than the other two, in part because, "the Big Canyon project would remove the fish issue." He acknowledged that building dams on the Little Colorado River would be difficult due to environmental and tribal objections.

"We didn't look at them closely enough," Irwin said.

He also said energy storage is already becoming an issue in renewables. "Solar is only good for about six hours," said Irwin. "But utilities need to supply power 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

He said he thinks utility-grade lead-acid batteries aren't the answer. "They're dangerous," Irwin said. "They blow up, they burn up." Hydro storage is a proven technology to store energy until it's needed, he said.

Also, Irwin said, "Navajo Nation owns the transmission line from the old Navajo Generating Station and it's not being used now."

Irwin said it is probable that non-potable water would be pumped to supply the dams, but he admitted that water suitable for human and animal use might be found when the wells start drilling.

He also said the project would create jobs for local Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe members, since the Moencopi substation that services the Navajo transmission line is on Hopi tribal land.

'We're going to fight this'

Rita Bilagody, spokesperson for Save the Confluence, said she believed the power generated from the dams, if they happen, won't benefit her community.

"It won't go to us," she said. "It's meant to go to people down at Phoenix, Las Vegas or California."

The Arizona Republic asked Irwin if any of the generated electricity would be allocated to the Navajo Nation since access to electricity or running water has long been in short supply there. Irwin said he believed the U.S. should enact a project like the Tennessee Valley Authority to serve the tribes in the region with water and utility services.



The Navajo Nation submitted a letter opposing the Big Canyon project in July 2020, but Irwin said he has met with leaders since then and believes he may gain more support for the dam project.

Opponents of all three projects cheered the firm's decision.

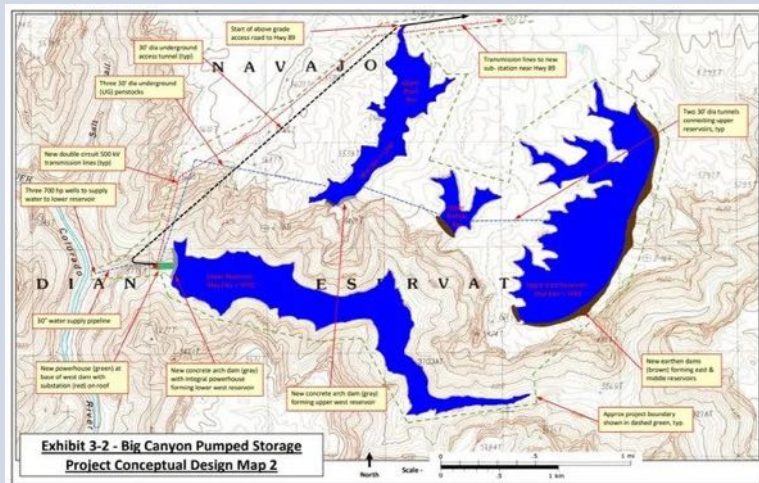
"Any of the three dam proposals would have likely impacted the flow of those milky turquoise blue waters through the Little Colorado River and down onto the confluence of the Colorado," said Amanda Podmore, Grand Canyon director at the Grand Canyon Trust.

Podmore would like to see all three, including the Big Canyon

project, go away.

"We're particularly concerned about the amount of groundwater that they'll require to fill four different reservoirs," she said.

Also, she said, evaporation loss at the Big Canyon site would lead to even more groundwater pumping, since Pumped Hydro Storage is proposing a pumped hydro reservoir project in a very arid region already undergoing a long-term drought.



The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, which operates the Navajo Nation's domestic and livestock water systems, has declared stage two drought restrictions in its service area. Among other directives, the authority put tight limits on water withdrawals from public wells and water stations to 500 gallons per day.

Bilagody said water is precious to Navajo people.

"Especially during the drought, all the precious water that we need to survive, just as the four-legged relatives need this water, is being rationed for what people need for their livestock," she said. "The drought is not going away, which means water will become even more precious."

The grassroots group, composed of Navajos who live near the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers, has worked for years to preserve their land from development. In 2017, their advocacy helped stop a controversial 420-acre resort project at the confluence. The Grand Canyon Escalade would have included a tram to the Canyon floor at the East Rim, retail development and a hotel.

Bilagody likened the Navajos' effort to keep their land and water from being taken or destroyed to the Havasupai Tribe's efforts, aided by her group and other Native peoples, to stop a uranium mine they say could imperil their ancestral lands and waters.

"This company, like Irwin's, is hell-bent on ramming the project through," she said. "The Navajo Nation still suffers from the legacy of uranium from the 1950s, the 60s and the 70s."

Bilagody attributed this and other efforts to develop tribal lands to "money, which is always on the minds of irresponsible developers."

She also asked why she and her neighbors had to continue fighting developers intent on taking what little land Navajo people have left.

"Some of these developers are just trying to desecrate the lands without any thought of people that live there," she said. "(Irwin has) been told so many times that no, we cannot support this."

But, Bilagody said, "Mr. Irwin doesn't realize how much we love the Earth, how much we care for her and how much we appreciate the creatures of the earth, our relatives."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3CoeNvG>

Dozens of fans greet man walking in bear suit



Navajo Times | Sharon Chischilly

Dozens of fans and supporters line up to meet Bearsun Sunday afternoon at Leupp Elementary School in Leupp, Ariz. Jessie Larios, a 33-year-old California native who's wearing the 60-pound Bearsun teddy bear suit, is walking from Los Angeles to Times Square in New York City to raise awareness and funds for five causes, including environment and mental health.

KINŁÁNÍ-DOOK'O'OOSLÍÍD

A 33-year-old California man in a giant teddy bear suit of his own creation is walking through Diné Bikéyah.

The man in the shash yáázh (daane'íh) suit, Jessie Larios, is walking on Navajo Route 15, making his



Navajo Times | Sharon Chischilly

Erik Laughter from Shonto, Ariz., takes a selfie with Bearsun Friday afternoon at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff.

way toward U.S. Route 191 and State Highway 264 to Tsébigahoodzání and Na'nizhoozhí.

To raise money – on GoFundMe – for multiple causes such as autism, cancer and the environment, Larios is walking from Los Angeles to Times Square in New York City.

Larios on July 29 arrived in Kinłání-Dook'o'ooslííd, where he visited the Museum of Northern Arizona.

He dressed as a bear he named “Bearsun,” which has a padded head, round red cheeks, and a bobble tail.

“A little wet, but I’m good,” Bearsun said when he arrived at the museum during a rainfall.

Bearsun started his long walk from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo neighborhood on July 5 and has been braving sweltering temperatures since then. But his journey has morphed into something bigger: drawing fans from all over.

He gets buoyed by fans and supporters who stop to pose for photos along the way.

Erik Laughter from Shonto, Arizona, took his family to meet Bearsun at the museum last Friday afternoon when Bearsun took a short pause to have a pizza lunch break before meeting more than 200 fans outside the museum.

Laughter said he followed Bearsun on social media when Bearsun crossed into Arizona along U.S. Route 95 on July 19.

“Until he started entering Arizona, that’s when (Bearsun) really caught my eye,” said Laughter, who learned of Bearsun about three weeks ago. “When he got to Seligman and Williams, I said, ‘Oh my god! He’s pretty close!’ I started watching his TikTok (videos) that he made in the past and tried to catch up.

“His cause is pretty cool,” he said. “He might be a minor celebrity, but I’ve never met anyone willing to cross the entire country before.”

Since then, Bearsun has stopped in several places, including Oatman, Kingman, Peach Springs,

Seligman, Ash Fork and Williams, sharing photos of himself in the foreground of the famed Steam Engine No. 3759 at the Locomotive Park, walking down



Navajo Times | Sharon Chischilly
Jasmine Joe, Neveah Harrison, and Lone Joe take a photo with Bearsun during a back-to-school social powwow at Betoney Park on Monday evening in Dilkon, Ariz.

Route 66, on the Grand Canyon Skywalk at Eagle Point, visiting Bearizona and petting donkeys.

In Flagstaff, Bearsun learned about the tribes of the Colorado Plateau and posed next to the Hopi R2D2, a droid from the museum's art exhibit "The Force is With Our People," which reflects Star Wars themes such as endurance and rebellion.

The museum staff also presented him with a Zuni shash fetish, which Larios said he accepted but didn't know what to say about receiving an "awesome" Native gift of a "bear with a backpack," meaning the medicine bundle tightly bound with sinew which symbolizes strength and healing.

"And I have a backpack!" Bearsun exclaimed.

"(The) Zuni fetish ... has a piece of stone on its back and he was very interested in that," explained Darwin Descheny, interim public programs manager at the MNA, who helped bring Bearsun to the museum.

Descheny, Diné, said Bearsun saw the Zuni shash fetishes in the museum's Babbitt Gallery and learned that shash often travel from the west just as he is.

"We talked to him about what the bear represents (in Diné culture)," Descheny said. "I talked about the symbolism and the strength a bear represents. I told him that's our (Diné) belief.

"And he's going to be traveling through the Navajo Nation," he said, "so he'll have that strength and resilience with him in his journey (to New York City)."

Larios said he's keeping Bearsun's social media followers in the loop by posting frequent updates on his whereabouts.

Over the weekend, Bearsun walked through Leupp and Dilkon, where he was greeted and welcomed by dozens of fans and attended a powwow. Bearsun

didn't watch the powwow in Tsézhin Dilkqoq because he was occupied with fans.

A Diné family also gifted Bearsun with a pair of kélchí near 2 Bar 3 on Leupp Road. Bearsun wore the kélchí into Tsiizizii where another group secured the pair. He was originally wearing Adidas footwear.

"I'm cool with the swap of shoes I made today," Bearsun said on Saturday. "I don't need another pair (of Adidas). Thank you, guys! Adidas to moccs!"

More than 123,000 people on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are following his journey.

They are also helping him raise money for five charities – Active Minds, Autism Society of America, National Breast Cancer Foundation, Villa Esperanza, and Environmental Defense Fund. He's raised more than \$34,200 as of Aug. 3.

"Everything's been unexpected," said Larios inside his Bearsun suit, in an interview with the Navajo Times. "It's interesting."

Larios said he usually sleeps and rests as Bearsun "under a tree" alongside the highway or in a tent that he carries in a backpack. Larios said when he takes off his Bearsun suit, that's when he takes out his cleaning supplies and sewing kit to clean and repair rips and tears, respectively, on Bearsun.

He carries a toothbrush, some toothpaste, snacks, and extra clothes inside his backpack.

When asked what he as Bearsun likes to eat, Larios



Navajo Times | Sharon Chischilly
Bearsun walks with dogs while supporters and fans greet him as he makes his way into Dilkon Sunday evening in Leupp, Ariz.

said "Bears eat everything. Especially ice cream."

Larios added that he cannot reveal his nationality.

Bearsun was also welcomed home to the Colorado Plateau by the museum staff when he reached the Dook'o'oosłíid area, adding that he's learned that Natives like to joke around "a lot, which is awesome!"

Information: iambearsun.com

READ MORE AT: <https://navajotimes.com/reznews/dozens-of-fans-greet-man-walking-in-bear-suit/>

Bulletin Board

Construction of hogan-style home prototype proceeds to help address housing challenges



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Saturday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. joined Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director James Zwierlein, volunteers of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters from Arizona and New Mexico, Executive Branch division directors, and the Office of the President and Vice President staff to help with the construction of the first hogan-style home prototype in Tse Bonito, NM, which will serve as a model for potential Navajo homeowners.

Under the leadership of Navajo Veterans Administration Director James Zwierlein, the Nation has developed partnerships with organizations specializing in housing development. The goal is to establish housing manufacturing facilities in various regions of the Navajo Nation to build homes for the Navajo people, including veterans.

"We know the conditions that some of our Navajo

elders, veterans, and others live in, and we need to come together to support and volunteer to construct homes for them. Developing Navajo-owned housing manufacturing facilities would cut down on the expenses and costs to build hogan-style homes. We know that the cost of building materials and transportation is at an all-time high due to the pandemic and other factors. By having regionalized housing manufacturing facilities that use our resources and by employing our Navajo people in the construction process, we can lower those costs and build more homes," said President Nez.

The hogan-style home prototype is approximately 1200 square ft and consists of two bedrooms, one bathroom, a laundry room, and an open floor plan for the kitchen and living room. Other floor plans also include three, four, and five bedrooms.

"The lack of suitable and safe housing on the Navajo Nation is a serious issue. We are hoping that the housing manufacturing facilities will help

improve our ability to rapidly manufacture safe and affordable housing. The Nation has many talented carpenters and compassionate individuals who are capable of building these homes. If we support awarding not only housing manufacturing contracts but other construction contracts to union signatory, Priority 1 contractors, then our Navajo people who are employed by these contractors will earn living wages to bring home to their families, making it more affordable for them to Buy Navajo, Buy Local. These ARPA dollars need to be fully invested into our local communities, thereby keeping as much of the funding on the Navajo Nation as possible. Together, we can make this a successful program."

Also in attendance to assist with the hogan construction was Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie, and Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council Chairperson George Tolth.

On Friday, the 24th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved legislation sponsored by Delegate Smith, which would amend the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund to increase the Navajo Veterans Administration's capacity to implement the housing program.

"We need to push this initiative forward, and we need support to allocate funds through the American Rescue Plan Act to develop these housing manufacturing facilities. We also call upon our Navajo citizens to help such an important cause that impacts each of our communities," added President Nez.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3xfKx2l>

Elderly Diné residents say "prayers have been answered" with Birdsprings road improvements



BIRDSPRINGS, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr., Navajo County Supervisor Alberto Peshlakai, and Birdsprings Chapter officials joined community members and local leaders on Thursday in Birdsprings, Arizona, to mark the start of construction of a nearly seven-mile stretch of N71 that will include pavement of the existing dirt road.

This stretch of road serves as a primary bus route for more than 100 students who attend Little Singer Community School as well as many local

residents.

"Recently, the Birdsprings Chapter was one of many communities that experienced flooding and road washouts due to heavy rainfall," Nez said. "Now, thanks to the persistence and hard work of past and present leaders, N71 will soon be paved for the benefit of Little Singer Community School students and teachers, first responders, and many local residents who rely on the road on a daily basis."

Road improvements will include grading, pavement, drainage, fencing, and the installation of cattleguards, which will make commuting much safer for residents and school buses.

The project is funded through the Tribal Transportation Program under the Federal Highway Administration.

Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr. and Birdsprings Chapter President Vernice Wagner recalled the pleas long ago from residents to improve the road. Walker also noted that the Birdsprings Chapter first passed a resolution supporting the road improvements in 1971.

As a child, Wagner said she remembers local residents talking about the need for improved roads in the community. She also called on the younger generations to learn from their elders and

continue advocating for their communities.

"This was a homegrown initiative that many elders have prayed for over the years. The Little Singer Community School board has supported this project for many years through resolutions. We are here because of our past and present leaders," Walker said.

Birdsprings resident and longtime member of the Little Singer Community School board, Dennis Yazzie, was also in attendance and provided the opening prayer for Thursday's event. He also thanked the Nation's leaders, spoke about his personal experience and support for the road project, and stated that the community's "prayers have been answered."

Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith thanked all of the entities involved in the preliminary planning and design and the upcoming construction work including Dibble Engineering, Logan Simpson, Navajo Area BIA, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation, and CB Emulsion.

Construction of N71 is expected to be completed in one year.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhnews.com/photos/2021/aug/17/49433/>

Bulletin Board

President Nez commends Emergency Management officials, CHR's, Chapter officials, and others for providing relief to elders in flooded areas



homes of several residents to deliver food items, bottled water, and other resources. The CHR's have checked on local residents since the flooding began last weekend. Wednesday's visits allowed the CHR's to check on the elderly residents in-person and to offer the opportunity for them to temporarily relocate if needed.

"Since the heavy rainfall began flooding areas in Birdsprings over the weekend, there's been very good collaboration and response from the Birdsprings Incident Command Center, Emergency Management, the CHR's, Navajo County, NDOT, and many others. Many of the homes are located in flood plain areas and residents have experienced flooding in the past. With more rainfall in the forecast, the CHR's have offered many residents the opportunity to relocate to other sites temporarily, but so far, none of the residents have taken the offer. Being out in the community with them today, I got to see their dedication and commitment firsthand. These men and women are out on the frontlines everyday helping our people and their work often goes unnoticed. I thank them for their hard work as we continue to support our Navajo people," said President Nez.

Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith also joined President Nez to see several damaged dirt roads, some of which have been closed off due to heavy flooding. Director Silversmith said that NDOT continues to deploy heavy equipment and personnel to various communities across the Navajo Nation to clear mud and to restore roads to allow residents access to and from their

homes. However, in some areas the water levels are too high to allow workers to safely conduct repairs. Once water levels subside, work crews will be able to clear the roads for residents.

President Nez also met briefly with Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr., who represents the Birdsprings community as a member of the Navajo Nation Council, to receive additional updates and to offer support for the residents and community officials.

"We know that many communities are in need of assistance and we want them to know that NDOT, Division of Community Development, DEM, the CHR's, and others are moving to provide help as quickly as possible. If you have elderly parents or grandparents, please check on them and make sure they are safe, but please be safe and do not enter flooded areas by foot or vehicle. The moisture we are receiving is a blessing for our people, but we have to support each other as we respond to certain situations," added President Nez.

If chapters need assistance with response efforts, please send an email [to] the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development at MonsoonRelief@NavajoChapters.org. The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Division of Transportation, and Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management will continue coordinating with county officials, chapter officials, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and state emergency officials to provide additional resources and updates.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3Ccam79>

Navajo Nation establishes the Fiscal Recovery Fund and the expenditure process for the American Rescue Plan Act

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were joined by 24th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon and Council Delegates Carl Slater, Wilson Stewart, Jr., Rickie Nez, Thomas Walker, Jr., and Mark Freeland, as they signed Resolution CJY- 41-21 into law, which establishes the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Expenditure Authorization Process for the American Rescue Plan Act allocation of \$1.8 billion.

In May, the U.S. Department of Treasury allocated \$1.8 billion to the Navajo Nation under the American Rescue Plan Act, for recovery efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After decades of unfinished infrastructure, struggling economy, and inadequate education systems, the Navajo Nation is on the doorstep of changing our future for our grandchildren. Throughout the COVID- 19 pandemic, we have faced many challenges that endangered our well-being and financial security. Together, through the resiliency of our frontline warriors and our Navajo people, we built on opportunities and resources to help each other. In the process, we initiated

projects to install water lines, waste water systems, electricity, and broadband for hundreds of families and communities. With the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund, we envision to increase those efforts to combat COVID-19 and build a stronger foundation for many generations to come," said President Nez.

Council Delegate Carl Slater sponsored the legislation, which was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council on July 22. In addition to establishing the Fiscal Recovery Fund and the expenditure process, the resolution also authorizes emergency procurements, allows for the reimbursement of projects funded by the Sihasin Fund and the Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance, supports CARES Fund projects that were not completed, and authorizes the establishment of the Fiscal Recovery Fund Office. All funds deposited into the Fiscal Recovery Fund will be used in compliance with all ARPA purposes and guidelines.

"I really want to thank the teams on both sides in order for us to get a comprehensive plan together and move forward," said Speaker Damon. "Thank you, Honorable Slater, for carrying the torch



forward and thank you to President and Vice President for enacting it here today."

"This funding represents a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Navajo Nation to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than before, and tackle critical issues facing Navajo families, businesses, and communities. The funds also allow us the opportunity to make transformational investments to build a more prosperous Nation and empower our communities," said Vice President Lizer.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks Council Delegate Carl Slater for sponsoring the legislation and the Office of the Speaker and 24th Navajo Nation Council for their support.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3rYdWgv>

Bulletin Board

Local elders celebrate "a dream come true" with the approval of funding to pave roadways between Pinon and Hard Rock communities

HARD ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Council Delegate Jimmy Yellowhair joined community members and local leaders at Hard Rock Chapter on Thursday, to finalize a resolution that appropriates \$19.5 million to pave existing dirt roads between the communities of Hard Rock and Pinon – an initiative that many leaders and local residents have supported for many years.

Former Hardrock Chapter President and Navajo County Supervisor Percy Deal, current Pinon Chapter President Bessie Allen, former Navajo County Supervisor Jesse Thompson, and current Hard Rock Chapter President Jay Begay, Jr. called the approval of the funding a "dream come true" for local residents. Both leaders have long advocated for road improvements and the paving of 15-miles of BIA Route N8031 from Hopi Route 4 to BIA Route N4.

"Thanks to the support and determination of the people of the Hard Rock and Pinon and through the persistence of our leaders such as Bessie Allen, Percy Deal, Council Delegate Jimmy Yellowhair, and many others, we are finally going to see the paving of these roadways for the benefit of elders, students, first responders, and many others. This shows that when leaders work together, support one another, and collaborate, we get things done for the people. It took time, but we are excited and happy for all of the residents who will benefit from the road improvements. I also extend my appreciation to the members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council who supported the legislation," said President Nez.

Former Hardrock Chapter President Percy Deal recalled that as a former elected member of the Navajo County Board of Supervisors years ago,

President Nez met with the Dził Yííin Regional Council on a regular basis and brought officials together to plan for the road improvements.

"There is a phrase that President Nez said to us time and time again and that was 'it's time to go to the next level.' Today, with the signing of the Legislation 0313-20 I'm reminded of that phrase and I say it's time to go to the next level, not only Hardrock and Pinon, but all communities in Dził Yííin. The next level is better education, adequate access to health care, economic development, and many other essential opportunities. We thank President Nez, Vice President Lizer, and members of the Navajo Nation Council for making our dream come true, many of us worked on this issue for many years and today we are witnessing our dream come true," said former Hard Rock Chapter President Percy Deal.

Pinon Chapter President Bessie Allen spoke about the transportation challenges that residents have experienced for many years, due to the rough dirt roads that many residents rely on to secure basic services and goods and to commute to and from work and school.

"This is going to help everyone. Thank you, President Nez. This is happening during your presidency and it will be quite a historical event. It's a big accomplishment. Thank you Delegate Yellowhair for sponsoring the legislation," said Pinon Chapter President Bessie Allen.

Vice President Lizer also recognized past and present leaders for their support and spoke about the economic opportunities that the paved roads will create.

"Improved roads bring new business, increase trade, help tourism, and boost the economy. You're part of the bigger economy of the Navajo



Nation. This road will provide immediate impacts and improve the quality of life for residents. We have to continue to support and build on the idea of Buy Navajo, Buy Local by stimulating the economy so that more of our people stay on the Navajo Nation and buy goods here. When we have quality roads, we can increase economic opportunities for our people," said Vice President Lizer.

Council Delegate Elmer Begay, Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office Executive Director Robert Black, and Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala were also in attendance to show their support for the communities and residents.

The project also received \$22.3 million through the Tribal Transportation Program for road construction, however, a shortfall of \$19.5 million was needed to complete the project's scope of work. The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the Hard Rock and Pinon Chapters for your support.

Christmas in July at Cornfields Chapter

CORNFIELDS, Ariz. – Last week, various partners, leaders and volunteers delivered gifts to the families of the Cornfields Chapter community. The drive-thru "Christmas in July" event was open to the public. Gifts distributed were toys, educational supplies, food, personal protective equipment (PPE), and household items.

"The pandemic may have hindered Christmas this past year, but our 'Christmas in July' event brightened the faces of our veterans, elderly, and our children from the Cornfields community," said Delegate Vince James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kintichii, Steamboat). "We were happy to provide an uplifting experience; the community of Cornfields is truly blessed thanks to the Navajo Nation and all the volunteers who celebrated with us."

Glenda Wheeler, the primary organizer and sponsor for the "Christmas in July" event, was driven by the kids, elders, and veterans who were affected by COVID-19. Wheeler wanted to bring the joyous time of the year to the families who lost loved ones due to the pandemic.

Lucas Garcia, Executive Director of Colorado Creating Change (CCC), a non-profit organization, was approached by Wheeler for the "Christmas in July" event to assist in delivering gifts to the Cornfields community. Garcia responded almost immediately to offer their assistance. Garcia was initially worried CCC would not be able to deliver an adequate number of gifts, but the people



associated to their organization stepped in and donated many items.

Garcia created CCC when the COVID-19 pandemic began in April 2020. Garcia delivered food, water, PPE, and hygiene projects to Indigenous communities of the Navajo Nation and South Dakota. Since then, he has delivered supplies to 31 communities and plans to deliver more to other communities as soon as possible.

Through Wheeler's connections, experience, and personal interactions, she was able to receive assistance from Delegate James, Cornfields Chapter, CCC, the Vet Center, Apache County District 3 Office of the Superintendent, Ganado Fire District, Navajo Head Start, Damon-Bahe Boxing, Diné Naazbaa' Partnership and Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund.

In the spirit of giving back, the "Christmas in July" event was a success. Garcia stated, "It is a beautiful journey to be able to help people and have people willing to help their communities."



Starbucks now serving in Tuba City

TUBA CITY, Ariz. – With much anticipation and people lining up at 6 a.m., Bashas' Diné Market Tuba City opened its doors for Starbucks patrons Aug. 21, for the grand opening of the second Starbucks coffeehouse on the Navajo Nation.

Special guests for the opening included Johnny Basha of the Basha family and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer. Nez also announced that another Starbucks would be built in the near future in Kayenta also within the Bashas' Dine Market located there.

The Starbucks addition in Tuba City will add up to 20 jobs to the local community. A Starbucks will open in the Bashas' Diné Market in Kayenta in early October.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2021/aug/24/starbucks-now-serving-tuba-city-and-kayenta/>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Rock Springs, NM	37,709.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Hardrock, AZ	37,709.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Administrative Assistant (S)	Window Rock, AZ	37,709.28	08/23/2021

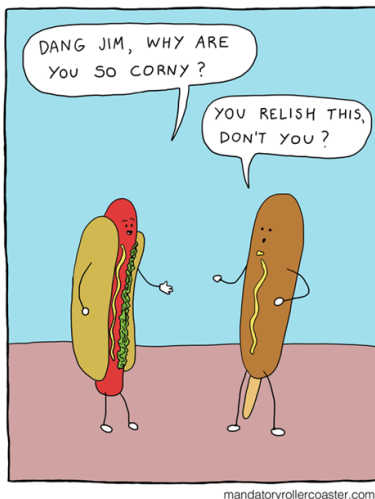
(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

Closing Dates may change due temporary reduction in non-essential Navajo Nation government services

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



Navajo Nation Chapters



TEMPORARY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Vacant CSC Positions Vacant AMS Positions

THE NAVAJO NATION GIVES PREFERENCE TO ELIGIBLE AND QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE NAVAJO PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT ACT AND
VETERANS' PREFERENCE

- **Required** to be submitted with your [Navajo Nation Employment Application \(09.16.2016 Revised\)](#)
- Copy of Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood
- Copy of HS Diploma / GED Certificate
- Copies of transcripts and degree(s) to receive credit for education
- Copies of Certifications (Licensures, First Aid, CPR, etc.)
- Copy of Valid State Driver License/ID

Submit Navajo Nation Employment Application to

asc@nndcd.org

Division of Community
Development – ASC
Department

FOR INFO CONTACT:

Local ASC Offices or
sjim-martin@nndcd.org

Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

2020 Census Statistics Highlight Local Population Changes and Nation's Racial and Ethnic Diversity

U.S. Census Bureau Delivers Data for States to Begin Redistricting Efforts

AUGUST 12, 2021

RELEASE NUMBER CB21-CN.55

AUG. 12, 2021 – The U.S. Census Bureau today released additional [2020 Census results](#) showing an increase in the population of U.S. metro areas compared to a decade ago. In addition, these once-a-decade results showed the nation's diversity in how people identify their race and ethnicity.

"We are excited to reach this milestone of delivering the first detailed statistics from the 2020 Census," said acting Census Bureau Director Ron Jarmin. "We appreciate the public's patience as Census Bureau staff worked diligently to process these data and ensure it meets our quality standards."

These statistics, which come from the [2020 Census Redistricting Data \(Public Law 94-171\) Summary File](#), provide the first look at populations for small areas and include information on Hispanic origin, race, age 18 and over, housing occupancy and group quarters. They represent where people were living as of April 1, 2020, and are available for the nation, states and communities down to the block level.

The Census Bureau also released [data visualizations](#), [America Counts stories](#), and [videos](#) to help illustrate and explain these data. These resources are available on the [2020 Census results page](#). Advanced users can access these data on the [FTP site](#).

Population Changes Across the Country Since the 2010 Census

Today's release reveals changes in the size and distribution of the population across the United States. The population of U.S. metro areas grew by 9% from 2010 to 2020, resulting in 86% of the population living in U.S. metro areas in 2020, compared to 85% in 2010.

"Many counties within metro areas saw growth, especially those in the south and west. However, as we've been seeing in our annual population estimates, our nation is growing slower than it used to," said Marc Perry, a senior demographer at the Census Bureau. "This decline is evident at the local level where around 52% of the counties in the United States saw their 2020 Census populations decrease from their 2010 Census populations."

County and metro area highlights:

The largest county in the United States in 2020 remains Los Angeles County with over 10 million people.

The largest city (incorporated place) in the United States in 2020 remains New York with 8.8 million people.

312 of the 384 U.S. metro areas gained population between 2010 and 2020.

The fastest-growing U.S. metro area between the 2010 Census and 2020 Census was The

Villages, FL, which grew 39% from about 93,000 people to about 130,000 people.

72 U.S. metro areas lost population from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. The U.S. metro areas with the largest percentage declines were Pine Bluff, AR, and Danville, IL, at -12.5 percent and -9.1 percent, respectively.

A data visualization released today shows the [population change at the county level from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census](#). Read more about population change in the America Counts story, [More Than Half of U.S. Counties Were Smaller in 2020 Than in 2010](#).

2020 Census Findings on Race and Ethnicity

The 2020 Census used the required two separate questions (one for [Hispanic or Latino origin](#) and one for [race](#)) to collect the races and ethnicities of the U.S. population – following the standards set by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997. Building upon our research over the past decade, we improved the two separate questions design and updated our data processing and coding procedures for the 2020 Census. This work began in 2015 with research and testing centered on findings from the [2015 National Content Test](#), and the designs were implemented in the [2018 Census Test](#).

The [improvements and changes](#) enabled a more thorough and accurate depiction of how people self-identify, yielding a more accurate portrait of how people report their Hispanic origin and race within the context of a two-question format. These changes reveal that the U.S. population is much more multiracial and more diverse than what we measured in the past.

We are confident that differences in the overall racial distributions are largely due to improvements in the design of the two separate questions for race data collection and processing, as well as some demographic changes over the past 10 years.

Today's release of 2020 Census redistricting data provides a new snapshot of the racial and ethnic composition of the country as a result of improvements in the design of the race and ethnicity questions, processing and coding.

"As the country has grown, we have continued to evolve in [how we measure the race and ethnicity](#) of the people who live here," said Nicholas Jones, director and senior advisor for race and ethnicity research and outreach at the Census Bureau. "Today's release of 2020 Census redistricting data provides a new snapshot of the racial and ethnic composition and diversity of the country. The improvements we made to the 2020 Census yield a more accurate portrait of how people self-identify in response to two separate questions on

Hispanic origin and race, revealing that the U.S. population is much more multiracial and more diverse than what we measured in the past."

Race and ethnicity highlights:

- The White population remained the largest race or ethnicity group in the United States, with 204.3 million people identifying as White alone. Overall, 235.4 million people reported White alone or in combination with another group. However, the White alone population decreased by 8.6% since 2010.
- The Two or More Races population (also referred to as the Multiracial population) has changed considerably since 2010. The Multiracial population was measured at 9 million people in 2010 and is now 33.8 million people in 2020, a 276% increase.
- The "in combination" multiracial populations for all race groups accounted for most of the overall changes in each racial category.
- All of the race alone or in combination groups experienced increases. The Some Other Race alone or in combination group (49.9 million) increased 129%, surpassing the Black or African American population (46.9 million) as the second-largest race alone or in combination group.
- The next largest racial populations were the Asian alone or in combination group (24 million), the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination group (9.7 million), and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination group (1.6 million).
- The Hispanic or Latino population, which includes people of any race, was 62.1 million in 2020. The Hispanic or Latino population grew 23%, while the population that was not of Hispanic or Latino origin grew 4.3% since 2010.

It is important to note that these data comparisons between the 2020 Census and 2010 Census race data should be made with caution, taking into account the improvements we have made to the Hispanic origin and race questions and the ways we code what people tell us.

Accordingly, data from the 2020 Census show different but reasonable and expected distributions from the 2010 Census for the White alone population, the Some Other Race alone or in combination population, and the Multiracial population, especially for people who self-identify as both White and Some Other Race.

These results are not surprising as they align with Census Bureau [expert research and corresponding findings](#) this past decade, particularly with the results on the impacts of questions format on race and ethnicity reporting from the 2015 National Content Test.

The Census Bureau uses several measures to analyze the [racial and ethnic diversity](#) of the country.

The Census Bureau uses the Diversity Index (DI) to measure the probability that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups.

The DI is bounded between 0 and 1. A value of 0 indicates that everyone in the population has the same racial and ethnic characteristics. A value close to 1 indicates that almost everyone in the population has different racial and ethnic characteristics.

We have converted the probabilities into percentages to make them easier to interpret. In this format, the DI tells us the chance that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups.

Using the same DI calculation for 2020 and 2010 redistricting data, the chance that two people chosen at random will be from different racial or ethnic groups has increased to 61.1% in 2020 from 54.9% in 2010.

In general, the states with the highest DI scores are found in the West (Hawaii, California and Nevada), the South (Maryland and Texas; along with the District of Columbia, a state equivalent), and the Northeast (New York and New Jersey).

Hawaii had the highest DI score in 2020 at 76%, which was slightly higher than 2010 (75.1%).

Information on the [racial and ethnic composition](#) of your state and county, and [various measures of diversity](#) are available in the following America Counts stories: [2020 U.S. Population More Racially and Ethnically Diverse Than Measured in 2010 and Improved Race and Ethnicity Measures Reveal U.S. Population Is Much More Multiracial](#).

The Adult and Under-Age-18 Populations

The 2020 Census showed that the adult (age 18 and older) population group grew 10.1% to 258.3 million people over the decade.

"More than three-quarters, 77.9%, of the U.S. population were age 18 and over," said Andrew Roberts, chief of the Sex and Age Statistics Branch in the Census Bureau's Population Division. "The adult population grew faster than the nation as a whole. By comparison, the population under age 18 was 73.1 million in 2020, a decline of 1.4% from the 2010 Census."

Changes to the adult and under-age-18 populations:

The District of Columbia had the largest population age 18 and over as a percentage of population at 83.4%. Utah had the largest population under age 18 as a percentage of population at 29.0%.

Utah also had the fastest-growing adult population at 22.8% growth.

North Dakota had the fastest-growing population under age 18 at 22.1% growth.

Additional age breakdowns will be available in future 2020 Census data releases scheduled for 2022.

As part of today's release, the Census Bureau provided a new data visualization that highlights the [adult and under-age-18 populations](#) across the United States down to the county level. More information is available in the America Counts story, [U.S. Adult](#)

[Population Grew Faster Than Nation's Total Population From 2010 to 2020](#).

2020 Census Housing Units

The 2020 Census showed that on April 1, 2020, there were 140,498,736 housing units in the United States, up 6.7% from the 2010 Census.

"While the national number of housing units grew over the past decade, this was not uniform throughout the country," said Evan Brassell, chief of the Housing Statistics Branch in the Census Bureau's Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division. "Counties that composed some part of a metropolitan or micropolitan area saw increases of 3.8%, on average, while counties outside of these areas showed decreases of 3.9% on average."

State highlights:

Texas had the largest numeric growth in housing units with 1,611,888.

The county with the largest percent increase in housing was McKenzie County, North Dakota, with a 147.9% increase.

West Virginia and Puerto Rico were the only two states or state equivalents that lost housing units.

There were 126,817,580 occupied housing units and 13,681,156 vacant units in the United States.

Housing unit statistics for the nation, states and counties are available in the [2020 Population and Housing data visualization](#). More information is available in the following America Counts stories: [Growth in Housing Units Slowed in the Last Decade](#) and [U.S. Housing Vacancy Rate Declined in Past Decade](#).

2020 Census Findings on Group Quarters

The U.S. population for group quarters was 8,239,016 as of April 1, 2020. This was an increase of 3.2% over the 2010 Census group quarters population. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled-nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories.

"In 2020, the group quarters population represented 2.5% of the total U.S. population, down from 2.6% in 2010," said Steven Wilson, chief of the Population and Housing Programs Branch in the Census Bureau's Population Division. "We also saw that college and university student housing was the most populous group living arrangement at 2,792,097, up 10.7% since 2010."

Group quarters highlights:

- The second-largest group quarters population was correctional facilities for adults at 1,967,297, which decreased from the 2010 Census by 296,305 (13.1%).
- The state with the largest group quarters population was California at 917,932, with the largest share of that population counted at other noninstitutional group quarters.
- The group quarters population in Puerto Rico decreased 1.2% since 2010 to 37,509.

Read more about these results in the America Counts story, [8.2 Million People Counted at U.S. Group Quarters in the 2020 Census](#). You can also access more statistics in the [2020 Census Demographic Data Map Application](#).

Quality of Results

All indications show the census results are in line with expectations.

"We are confident in the quality of today's results," said acting Census Bureau Director Ron Jarmin.

In keeping with our commitment to transparency, the Census Bureau will [release additional operational quality metrics](#) on August 18 and August 25, providing more detail on the conduct of specific operations.

Producing Quality Data While Protecting Anonymity

The redistricting data are the first from the 2020 Census to use differential privacy, a mathematical method that applies carefully calibrated statistical noise to a dataset and allows a balance between privacy and accuracy. More information is available in [2020 Census Data Products: Disclosure Avoidance Modernization and Redistricting Data: What to Expect and When](#).

In addition to the redistricting data released today, the Census Bureau has released a [set of demonstration data](#) that illustrate the impact of the differential privacy production settings on published 2010 Census redistricting data. The Census Bureau released similar demonstration datasets over the course of the new method's development.

Legacy Data vs. Final Delivery of P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data

These data released today are in the same format that the 2000 and 2010 redistricting data were provided. The term "legacy" refers to its prior use. By September 30, we will release these same data to state officials with an easy-to-use toolkit of DVDs and flash drives and we will make it available to the public on [data.census.gov](#). The Census Bureau will notify the public in September when it makes these same data available.

Accessing These Data

Data are available in the [2020 Census Demographic Data Map Application](#) through [different data visualizations](#) and [QuickFacts](#). Data files are also available on the [Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary Files](#) page and includes the geographic support files, technical documentation and additional support materials needed to access these data.

The Census Bureau has also produced a variety of America Counts stories on [population change and distribution](#), [group quarters](#), [the adult population](#), [housing changes](#), [housing vacancy](#), [race and ethnicity](#) and [the diversity index](#). [Videos](#) are also available that explain how to access these data and what these data show about the changing nation.

READ MORE AT: https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/population-changes-nations-diversity.html?utm_campaign=20210812msprts1ccpuprs&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

COVID-19 SAFE PRACTICES: REOPENING GUIDELINES FOR IN PERSON TRAINING AND MEETINGS



In person training and meetings must adhere to the Navajo Nation In-Person Training and Meetings Guidelines pursuant to the most recent Public Health Emergency Order issued by the Navajo Department of Health. All entities are responsible for understanding and implementing the guidelines to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Hosts and individuals attending in-person training or meetings shall follow the guidance in this document. Clearly communicate to attendees the steps to be taken before, during, and after the training/ meeting to ensure that the participants are aware of the safety protocols.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Only hybrid meetings are allowed:
 - The number of in person attendees must not exceed gathering requirements per current PHEO.
 - All other attendees must attend virtually.
- In person meeting timeframe limited to 6 hours or less.

GETTING VACCINATED

- Eligible attendees are highly encouraged to get vaccinated.
- Being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is the most important step people can take to make training/work-sessions safer.
- If you would like information on making a vaccination appointment, contact the nearest federal (IHS) or Tribal health organization at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine>

HOST WILL BE FOLLOWING BASIC COVID-19 SAFE PRACTICES

- Practice the three W's:
 - WEAR A MASK: Mask wearing is mandatory.
- All participants must wear face masks prior to entering any venue, for the duration of the training/meeting, and while receiving training/meeting packets.
- Disposable masks will be made available for attendees.
- Mask may be removed when drinking.

- o **WASH HANDS:** Hand sanitizer will be provided, convenient, and accessible. Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds frequently, and do not touch your face, eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- o **WATCH YOUR DISTANCE:** Keep 6 feet away from others.

SCREENING PRIOR TO THE START OF THE TRAINING/WORK-SESSION

- All in-person attendees must be self-screened for COVID-19 symptoms using the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.
- Onsite registration is allowable for those individuals attending in person if the host does not have the capability to set up pre-registration options.
- All attendees of an in-person training/meeting may pre-register to avoid onsite registration. Only those who pre-register will be allowed to attend.
- All attendees of an in-person training/meeting may utilize text/SMS or QR codes during training/work-session to avoid onsite sign-in. Links will be provided prior to event.

FOOD OR DRINKS

- No food will be allowed during the event. Bottled water and drinks in a cup with a lid will be allowed during the event.
- If lunch is provided, food must be prepackaged (to-go).

HYGIENE AND SAFETY

- The host must clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and any areas before and after they are touched or used, such as seats, doorknobs, etc. Disposable disinfectant wipes must be made available for participants to utilize for cleaning and disinfection.
- Attendees are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer but will be provided hand wipes and hand sanitizer onsite.
- Doors and windows may be propped open for increased air circulation, in the event an HVAC system is not available.
- The host will maintain a record of all in-person attendees for at least 30 days to assist with contact tracing. Information collected must include name, date, phone number and email (if available). If a potential case of COVID-19 associated with the training/work-session occurs, this information must be provided within 24 hours, if requested, to contact tracers from federal (Indian Health Service) or Tribal health organizations.
- The host will limit the sharing or exchange of materials, e.g., awards, certificates, door prizes, work-session/training packets. When possible, packets may be provided to attendees beforehand via mail or email.
 - o Note: Door prizes must be in original packaging or in sanitized bags or containers.
 - o If feasible, certificates will be electronically mailed to personal emails.
- The host will clean and disinfect microphones after each use.

ENCOURAGE 6 FEET OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING BY OPTIMIZING LOGISTICS

- The host will model physical distancing with appropriate main stage.
 - o Presenters and speakers may remove masks if they are 10 feet away from others.
- Attendees will be stationed appropriately to ensure compliance with all requirements and to limit congregation and crowding.

August 2021



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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