

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021

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Did You Know...

October has seen more presidents of the United States born than any other month of the year.

Where is Bear Sun?

Carthage, Missouri



Events:

September: Bini'anit'ááts'oh- "Ripening of Late Crops"

September 9: Labor Day

September 12: Grandparents Day

September 25: National Public Lands Day

October: Ghąąji' - "Separation of Seasons"

October 1: International Coffee Day

October 11: Native Americans Day

October 31: Halloween

Several DCD Employees Retiring in September



BEN COWBOY, CPMD



BRENDA NOTAH, CDBG, CHID

Four employees from Capital Projects Management Department, two from CHID, and several more chapter employees will be using the Navajo Nation Enhanced Retirement option at the end of September.

On May 4, the 24th Navajo Nation Council's Budget and Finance Committee approved Legislation No. 0073-21 in support of the Enhanced Retirement Program. The Enhanced Retirement Program seeks to offer enhanced benefits to Navajo Nation employees who are most at risk of the Coronavirus and those seeking to retire.

The Enhanced Retirement Program offers an incentive of an additional three years of service when calculating an individual's retirement benefit payment, which increases their lifetime benefit by an average of six-percent. The program is completely voluntary and is available to regular status employees who were sixty (60) years of age and have served at least ten (10) years of service as of March 31, 2021.

Some of the DCD retirees that we will highlight below include Mr. Benjamin Cowboy, Construction Supervisor with the CPMD Department. Mr. Cowboy worked for DCD for over 17 years. Mr. Cowboy was in charge of most of the waterline projects while at

September 2021

CPMD and he was awarded the prestigious Joe Guillen Award from the State of New Mexico in 2018.

Ms. Marie Begay, Contract Analyst, CPMD, worked for DCD for over 34 years. Ms. Begay managed the processing of all state intergovernmental agreement funding awards for Navajo Nation and chapter capital improvement projects.

Ms. Brenda Notah, Senior Office Specialist, CDBG Program, has been a Navajo Nation employee for over 40 years. Ms. Notah provided administrative support for the CDBG Program.

Mr. Zane Sanisya, Electrician, BIA HIP Program, has been with DCD for over 10 years. Mr. Sanisya has overseen the electrical wiring of the BIA HIP housing program during his tenure with DCD.

James Adakai, Deputy Director, stated, "We offer best wishes for the future of the retiring employees. Certainly, their valued work and due diligence at the DCD will be missed. We immensely appreciate their services and contribution to DCD and the Navajo Nation. And we hope they will enjoy their retirement with their family."

Congratulations and a big **THANK YOU** to all the DCD retirees!



Heavy Equipment Updates



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

August - September Deliveries

August 25 - Red Rock - Truck

August 25 - Round Rock - Backhoe

August 27 - Pinon - Truck

August 27 - Crownpoint - Water Truck

September 1 - Standing Rock - Skid Steer

September 8 - Standing Rock - Dump Truck

September 3 - Sweetwater - Backhoe

September 3 - Lake Valley - Truck

September 7 - Kaibeto - Backhoe

September 9 - Mariano Lake - Skid Steer

September 10 - Counselor - Truck

September 10 - Low Mountain - Backhoe

September 13 - Baca - Water Truck

September 14 - Huerfano - Skid Steer

September 16 - Tsah Bii Kin - Backhoe

September 23 - Pueblo Pintado - Backhoe

September 24 - Aneth - Backhoe



ARPA

The Navajo Nation has received over \$1.8 Billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the U.S. Treasury. This funding was part of a larger \$20 Billion set aside for states, local, territorial, and tribal governments.

The following is a summary from the U.S. Department of Treasury's ARPA website (<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund/tribal-governments>):

These funds represent an historic investment in Indian Country and provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. These funds will:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of COVID-19 and bring the pandemic under control
- Replace lost revenue for Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
- Support immediate stabilization for households and businesses in Indian Country
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic on Tribal communities.

ELIGIBLE USES FOR CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger and more equitable economy as the country recovers. Recipients may use these funds to:

- Support public health expenditures, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet

Within these categories of eligible uses, Tribal governments have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their local communities. Further, in recognition of the pandemic's disproportionate public health and economic impacts in Tribal communities, the following services are also eligible when provided by a Tribal government:

- Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health, including community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs
- Building stronger neighborhoods and communities, including supportive housing and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, development of affordable housing, and housing vouchers and counseling
- Addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19, including early learning services, decreasing funding gaps between low- and high-poverty districts, and educational services or tutoring for at-risk students
- Promoting healthy childhood environments, including childcare, home visiting programs, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth



DCD formed an ARPA team back in March 2021 to begin working with chapters to help them submit project proposals to be funded with ARPA. The team created an online web portal where chapters could submit project information. By the deadline, over 500 proposals had been submitted from the 110 chapters and other organizations. On May 20, 2021, The Navajo Nation American Rescue Plan Final Report identified over \$18 Billion in potential projects that were submitted by the chapters through the ARPA online portal. OPVP established four ARPA working groups: 1) Division Directors Working Group, 2) ARPA Support Working Group, 3) Regulatory Review Working Group, and 4) Infrastructure Delivery Working Group to begin additional processing on the project proposals.

The DCD ARPA team continues to work with chapters to make sure all information requested is complete. Once these preliminary activities are done, the projects will be forwarded to the Navajo Nation ARPA office under the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP). The final determinations of which proposals are eligible to be funded will come from OPVP and submitted to the Navajo Nation Council for funding legislation.

Videos of previous outreach activities through the OPVP ARPA campaign can be found on the DCD website. Furthermore, DCD plans to conduct additional orientations to the 110 chapters through ASC regarding the ARPA-FRF (Fiscal Recovery Fund) application procedures.

Construction of new bridge provides safe route for Tsé Si áni community



TSÉ SI ÁNI, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, 24th Navajo Nation Council members, Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director Gregory Mehojah, and Tsé Si áni Chapter officials and residents gathered on Wednesday, to celebrate the completion of the construction of a new two-lane concrete bridge along N9402 in the community of Tsé Si áni, located approximately 22-miles south of Window Rock, Ariz. The new bridge replaces a deteriorated wooden bridge that was constructed over 40 years ago and often created transportation challenges for local residents, school buses, first responders, and others.

In January 2020, the Navajo Division of Transportation successfully secured over \$5 million from the Federal Highway Administration for Tribal Transportation Program Bridge Program for the bridge project. However, the complete funding was not immediately available. Tsé Si áni Chapter officials and Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. worked with Fort Defiance Chapter and Council Delegate Wilson Stewart, Jr. to reach an agreement to borrow a portion of funding that was allocated for a separate road project in Fort Defiance, to allow the construction of the new bridge in Tsé Si áni to proceed immediately.

The Resources and Development Committee approved the reallocation of the funds with the support of both communities. The road project for Fort Defiance will be fully funded with FY2022 funding from the Federal Highway Administration. In late 2020, President Nez finalized a contract with FNF Construction to complete the long-awaited project. Construction crews worked through the winter and completed the new bridge eight months ahead of schedule.

“With this project, the leaders of Tsé Si áni and Fort Defiance exemplify what can be accomplished when leaders and communities work together for the greater good of our people. They met and compromised when it came to the funding, and now there is a new bridge that will make transportation safer for school buses, first responders, and all residents. I also thank the Navajo Department of Transportation for all of the great work they are doing in many communities to improve roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure. Congratulations to the Tsé Si áni community,” said President Nez.

Tsé Si áni Chapter President Yvonne S. Murphy also spoke about the history and challenges that community members have dealt with for many years and presented a certificate of appreciation to the Fort Defiance Chapter for their support and collaboration. Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. also thanked the Fort Defiance Chapter, Council Delegate Wilson Stewart, Jr., and the Resources and Development Committee for support and approval of the reallocation of funds.

The construction work included the removal of the old bridge, grading, placement of aggregate base course with stabilization, installation of drainage structures, 5-span concrete bridge, wire-enclosed riprap protection for abutments and channel, and other miscellaneous construction.

“I extend my appreciation to President Nez, Vice President Lizer, Council Delegates, Tsé Si áni and Fort Defiance Chapters, FCF Construction, and our team at Navajo Division of Transportation for driving this project to completion. It was a team effort and everyone contributed to the successful outcome,” said Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith.

Council Delegate Rickie Nez, Council Delegate Mark Freeland, Council Delegate Pernell Halona, former Council Delegate Tim Goodluck, and former Navajo Area BIA Regional Director Sharon Pinto, were also in attendance. Lupton Valley Church Pastor Ronnie Yazzie offered a blessing for the new bridge prior to the ribbon cutting.



The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the Navajo Division of Transportation, Tsé Si áni Chapter, Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr., Council Delegate Wilson Stewart, Jr., FCF Construction, Federal Highway Administration Federal Lands Highway Office of Tribal Transportation, Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region Branch of Transportation, Wilson and Company, Inc., and all of the subcontractors and suppliers who made the project a success for the community of Tsé Si áni.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3kV8RCQ>

Administrative Service Centers

Serving Navajo Chapters across eight (8) area offices on the Navajo Nation.

The ASC exists to provide chapters with technical assistance and training to establish sustainable chapter operations and preserve public trust in government.

Baca-Gallup ASC

Crownpoint ASC

Chinle ASC

Dilkon ASC

Fort Defiance ASC

Kayenta ASC

Shiprock ASC

Tuba City ASC

ASC Partners with Key Navajo Nation Programs

The Administrative Service Centers (ASC) Department has established collaborative partnerships with key programs that assist and train all 110 Navajo chapters across the Navajo Nation. In January, newly elected chapter officials were introduced to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Chapter Unit, the Ethics & Rules Office, the Office of the Auditor General, and the Peacemaking Program. Chapter leadership and chapter employees were encouraged to contact these resources to help address problems and gain additional understanding of their roles and responsibilities. "With the fiscal year coming to an end with the Navajo Nation, we are hoping the newly elected chapter officials have gain experience and resources that they feel confident to start the new fiscal year in October we more knowledge," stated Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Department Manager. These programs are great resources for Council delegates and chapter leaders and staff and the Division of Community Development encourages everyone to participate in these collaborative partnerships.

Department of Justice Chapter Unit

The Chapter Unit provides legal advice to chapter officials and the chapter administration for all 110 Navajo Nation chapters. Since the Administrative Service Centers (ASC) within the Division of Community Development provide technical assistance to chapters, the Chapter Unit also provides legal advice to the ASC staff. Rodgerick T. Begay is Todik'ozhi, born for Biih bitoodnii, maternal grandparents are Kinyaa'aanii, paternal grandparents are Tsi'naajinii. Rod grew up on the Navajo Nation in the communities of Whippoorwill and Tselani-Cottonwood. Rod and his wife have been together since high school and have a son and three daughters. Rod is a Chinle Wildcat and received his undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and earned his law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law. He returned home and has dedicated his entire legal career to serving the Diné by holding several legal positions within the Navajo Nation government. He has worked for the Chinle and Window Rock District Courts. Rod was formerly appointed and confirmed as Deputy Attorney General. He currently leads the DOJ Chapter Unit as an Assistant Attorney General where he shares and applies his expertise in Navajo Municipal Law to the 110 Navajo Nation chapter governments and to the Division of Community Development. He is licensed to practice law in the state of Arizona and on the Navajo Nation.

Contact Rodgerick Begay at phone number (928) 871-6932 or for any information please email: general@nndoj.org

<http://nndoj.org/chapter-unit.aspx>

Ethics & Rules Office

The Ethics and Rules Office has a two fold mission: 1) to ensure that all government officials (elected officials and Navajo Nation employees) adhere to the requirement of accountability, and 2) to ensure that government officials adhere to standards of conduct to avoid conflicts. This is important to ensure that all elected officials and Navajo Nation employees are held accountable for the position that they hold within the Navajo Nation Government.

According to the Ethics and Rules Office website,

THE PURPOSE OF THE ETHICS AND RULES OFFICE IS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE NAVAJO NATION BY REQUIRING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT BY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE NAVAJO NATION. THE ETHICS AND RULES OFFICE EDUCATES THE PUBLIC ON THE NAVAJO NATION ETHICS [IN] GOVERNMENT LAW AND MONITORS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THAT LAW.

TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE NAVAJO NATION IN REQUIRING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT BY THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS, OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE NAVAJO NATION, IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.

TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE NAVAJO PEOPLE IN FAIR, HONEST AND EFFICIENT CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NAVAJO NATION.

MAINTAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE LAWS OF THE NAVAJO NATION, COMPLETE AND CURRENT WRITTEN RECORDS ALL LAWS, RESOLUTIONS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, RULINGS, DECISIONS, AND OPINIONS RELATING TO STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT.

Kandis S. Martine is the Executive Director and can be reached at 928-871-6369 or orientations and filing intake forms.

<https://www.nnethicsrules.navajo-nsn.gov/>

Office of the Auditor General

The Office of the Auditor General serves the Navajo Nation Council, other elected officials and managers at all levels in providing high quality government services to the Navajo people. The Auditor General and staff provide independent and objective assessments of Navajo Nation programs, enterprises, and political subdivisions (Navajo Nation chapters). Their work is vital in maintaining the people's trust and confidence that Navajo Nation resources are used efficiently and prudently and that services are provided effectively and honestly. The purpose of the OAG is to:

- Conduct financial related audits and reviews of Navajo Nation chapters, entities and contractors to the Navajo Nation.
- Conduct performance audits and reviews of Navajo Nation government programs, departments and divisions.
- Provide management advisory services to the Navajo Nation.
- Assist the Office of the Prosecutor and Ethics and Rules Office in the investigation of possible fraud and/or misappropriation of Navajo Nation assets.

The Acting Auditor General is Helen Brown. E-mail: auditorgeneral@navajo-nsn.gov or contact them by telephone: (928) 871-6303/6304

Peacemaking Program

PEACEMAKING PROCESS: Navajo Fundamental Law, traditions, and culture are all brought into Peacemaking. The participants work with a Peacemaker or Traditional Program Specialist to discuss the problems or events. Participants restore Hózhó through talking it out and using traditional values, thinking about the impacts of the events on everyone involved, seeking forgiveness, and focusing on the wellbeing of their families, Clan, and the Diné community.

SELECTION OF THE PEACEMAKER: • By Traditional Program Specialist at each District • Chapter-Certified Peacemakers • Peacemakers may be selected by Naalchid • Peacemakers in schools have additional requirements

Contact Elaine Henderson, Acting Program Coordinator

Phone: (928) 871-6388

<http://www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov/indexpeacemaking.htm>

Navajo Nation considers rails-to-trails project

Recreation trail would replace rail line between closed coal mine and power plant

CREDIT: NBC NEWS

By Jim Mimiaga Journal staff writer

The Navajo Nation is considering converting a rail line from the closed Kayenta Coal Mine into a public recreation trail.

The Navajo Rail-Trail project proposal envisions an 80-mile route connecting the communities of LeChee, Coppermine, Kaibeto, Tonailea, Cow Springs and Shonto.



Hikers and bikers would enjoy views like this if a Navajo Nation concept converts a closed rail line into a recreation trail in northern Arizona. (Courtesy of NavajoYes)

The rail line formerly delivered coal from the coal mine to the Navajo Generating Plant in Page, Arizona. Both facilities shut down in 2019 and 2020.

Navajo chapters on the route are reviewing the rails-to-trails concept and discussing whether to support the idea.

The concept is in the early planning stages, and would be a multiyear project, said Tom Riggenschach, executive director of NavajoYes, an organization that organizes health and recreation programs.

"There have been a lot of meetings with community members and ranchers to gauge the level of interest," he said in an interview Thursday. "It is a new concept for our area. We are getting feedback from the community about it, listening to concerns and hearing different opinions."

The goal is to remove the tracks and replace them with a trail surface, which would be open to the the general public.

The benefit of the trail would be community wellness and help to grow the recreation economy for Navajo Country, Riggenschach said.

"Outdoor fun would be one component – a place for families to walk and bike together on the trail and enjoy the natural beauty of the area," he said. "It also creates small business opportunities to serve trail users, like stores, campgrounds, Hogan B&B's and bike repair shops."

Navajo Nation races

There are two upcoming bike races on the Navajo Nation. The Asaayi

road race will take place in person on Aug. 14. The Chuska Challenge mountain bike race is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 18-19, but whether it will be live, virtual or a hybrid will depend on what Navajo Nation pandemic restrictions will allow.

The 20.6-mile Asaayi course is from Asaayi Junction to Narbona Pass in the Bowl Canyon Recreation Area. The race begins at 9 a.m. Sign-up is available on the Asaayi Bike Race website. The race will adhere to Navajo Nation pandemic regulations.

The scenic route passes among the red rock buttes and towers of the area. The final climb to the top of the pass is one of the iconic view points of Navajo Country.

There will be an aid station about halfway along the route and at the finish line at Narbona Pass. Course marshals will monitor the race throughout, and assistance will be available as needed. Riders are encouraged to carry some light mechanical items and pump.

There is a 5K bike road race for youths age 12 and younger. A 5K run for everyone begins at 8 a.m.

The Chuska Challenge is the Navajo Nation's premier mountain bike event of the year and takes place the final weekend of September in the Chuska Mountains.

The Chuska Challenge Tour includes 35-mile and 20-mile noncompetitive options. The competitive mountain bike race includes a variety of routes and distances, and includes awards for top riders.

For more information about the races, visit [NavajoYes.org](https://www.navajoyes.org).

READ MORE AT: <https://www.the-journal.com/articles/navajo-nation-considers-rails-to-trails-project/>



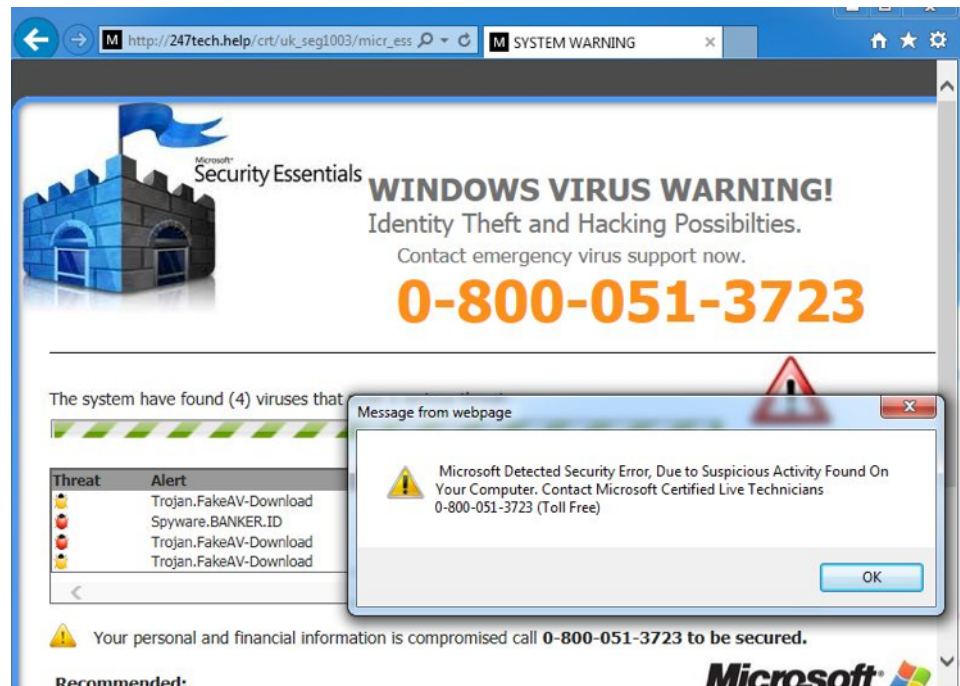
A proposed rails-to-trails project would create an 80-mile trail between Shonto and LeChee on the Navajo Nation.

HAVE YOU BEEN HACKED?

If you have ever seen a pop-up window that looks similar to this one on the right, **DO NOT** call the number listed. This is a common scam to trick people into calling the number and letting the scammers install remote control software to your machine so they can look for and steal valuable information from your computer or worse, lock your files and demand a ransom to get them back.

This type of attack is called "SOCIAL ENGINEERING" which is another way to say "tricking people" into opening up their computers to strangers to do bad things to your information.

If you ever see these types of alerts, the most important thing is not to act on the instructions. If you are in doubt of the legitimacy of anything going on with your computer, it is recommended you contact DCD IT support first. Microsoft or other legitimate software developers do not send out notices to call them either through email or through pop-ups like the one shown above. If you see such an email, delete it immediately. If you see a pop-up like that show up on your computer, first try to close the window or exit the browser. Sometimes this is difficult to do because the scammers make it intentionally hard to exit from their pop-ups. Sometimes, you may need to start up the Windows Task Manager to manually exit out of the offending process. Again, if you need help with this, contact DCD IT Support.



Some general tips for internet safety:

- When you are on the internet, always be alert for scams or malware.
- Do not download software from unknown websites or browser pop-ups. Do not browse unknown or sketchy websites. These are places where scammers tend to put their pop-ups and malware.
- It is prudent to be a little paranoid while using the internet or reading email because of all the malware and scams that exist. If something doesn't seem right, go with your gut feeling. If you get an email from someone telling you to click a link or download a file, double check with them by calling them up and asking if they sent you the file or the link. Many scammers try to fake the sender information on emails to make it look like it's coming from someone you might know.
- Learn how to read the URL line on your browser to make sure you are on the correct website and not a scammer site. Same goes for a link that you are about to click. If you hover your mouse pointer over a link, the underlying URL will appear and if it shows something you are not expecting, **DO NOT CLICK!**
- If you get an email or pop-up from a website wanting your personal information or financial information, it is probably a scam and you should treat it as such.

Bulletin Board



By Rita Omokha

Miss Navajo Nation is no ordinary pageant. There are no bathing suits, no evening gowns, and physical beauty isn't glorified. Instead, the 69-year tradition focuses on Navajo culture, womanhood, and leadership. "It represents the beauty, the language, the tradition, and the matrilineal strength of the Navajo Nation," says Phefelia Nez, Navajo Nation's First Lady. "These girls prepare for this from a very young age, and it takes the family, the community, to get them ready once they have the desire."

The week-long competition was prevented last year, as rising coronavirus infection levels limited in-person activities. Now that Native Americans have the highest vaccination rate in America, the Navajo leadership is confident in holding the event in person as it kicks off today, September 6—with some restrictions still in place. According to Nez, the event will be limited to 25 people total: the contestants, judges, and a few volunteers.

The pageant was first held in 1952 to center Navajo pride and honor Diné (Navajo) people. It's averaged between five and ten contestants each cycle, but this year will see three young women compete for the title of Miss Navajo. In addition to an age requirement of 18 to 25—signifying a new generation, a passing of the baton—the three participants must also be vaccinated.

In the past, people from across the Nation would gather publicly and select the winner based on the loudest applause. But over the years it's grown to include an exacting test of Navajo culture and has become a way to keep the mores of their ancestors alive in shifting contemporary times.

Shaandiin Parrish, the outgoing Miss Navajo, says the women that came before have inspired her "to hold a higher expectation for myself. To carry myself in a way that our culture says that women should." She's the only titleholder to wear the crown for two straight years, a result of the pandemic. "I want the contestants to know that being Miss Navajo Nation is a position for our people," says Parrish. "That the needs of our people must come first."

The four-day event includes preparing three traditional dishes, testing the women on Navajo history and philosophy, Navajo language fluency, and butchering an adult sheep (called *dibé* in Navajo) in an hour—a symbolic ritual. The sheep represents spirituality and life: *Dibé bi iina*. Sheep is life. The Diné people use the sacred animal as a main dish, like roasted mutton or lamb fillet, during ceremonies or significant celebrations—it's a sign of hospitality, says 2011 Miss Navajo Crystalline Curley, an administrator in the Nation's office of the president and vice president.

Contestants must also show a clear understanding of traditional everyday life. That aspect is especially crucial because Miss Navajo becomes an ambassador across the 574 federally recognized tribes and internationally, says Nez. Parrish, for example, represented the Nation in front of the United States Commission on Civil Rights earlier this year to speak about their pandemic struggles.

Inside the Miss Navajo Nation Pageant, Where Lost Traditions Are Found Again

The 69-year-old sacred competition returns again this year to focus on culture and community.

"Their platform is huge," adds Nez. "But on a personal level, it allows them to reflect back on everything that it took for them to get to where they are, how they were raised, the things that they were taught."

Below, the three contestants share what this pageant means to them, what they look forward to in the week-long competition, and what they hope to accomplish, especially as their community continues to reel from the pandemic.



Shandiin Hiosik Yazzie, 25

"Miss Navajo means I am an ambassador and role model for young women to say, 'She's trying her best despite the hardships and setbacks our people face.' I was nervous thinking we had to capture and butcher the sheep—which I was prepared for because my Cheii (grandfather) taught me how to rope. But the sheep would already be there, all we have to do is slaughter—so I'm a bit at ease."

To have the sheep butchering part of this pageant may seem misplaced, but its significance goes beyond that one act alone. My grandmother once told me, "Don't ever forget that this sheep feeds us, it gives us everything. It's our food, it's our clothes, it's our bed, and most importantly it's our medicine." Its value is based on the traditional perspectives of K'é [kinship]. K'é is how everything is connected. How the sheep gives its life to my family and me, so we make sure to bless it before we butcher it. We say, 'Thank you,' and pray for our families, the earth, the sky, the environment, and for all earth surface peoples."

One thing people may not realize is that the United States still holds power over all indigenous people. We don't have 'real' sovereignty and are not free from injustices and the continued violence of settler-colonialism. We've struggled from years of untreated intergenerational trauma caused by systemic violence that colonization caused. What gives me hope is my generation and those coming behind me, wanting to fight abuses of power. Even if it means we start small."

I've been working in mutual aid for indigenous and women organizations like the K'é Infoshop, working in our communities on and off the Navajo Nation. Mutual aid is a form of solidarity-based support, where we unite against a common struggle rather than leaving individuals to fend for themselves. I want to continue advocating for restorative and transformative justice regardless of if I win or not."



Niagara Aveda Chanel Rockbridge, 22

Growing up, the idea of kinship was always emphasized. During the pandemic, we lost our matriarchs and elders. People that we leaned on for support, and it's been hard on us. But we have their teachings. That has helped us stay strong through this time."

My name, Rockbridge, represents the sliding rock the Rockbridge people use as a landmark to identify their homelands. A Northstar. It comes from my great-grandfather, an elder who many turned to for guidance and wisdom. And those qualities of leadership were passed on to my grandfather and father. Since I was a child, my father has been keen on teaching me the Navajo way of life. Making sure I don't forget our heritage, our language, who we are as a people. So my passion for helping my people stems directly from my lineage. As Miss Navajo, I want my main message to center on the concept of unity and teaching our culture to future generations."

We've endured historic tragedies, even through this recent year with the impacts of COVID—how much it has taken its toll on us. Yet, there's also a collective strength that we have found within our history, within our way of life. And holding on to that helps us survive."

This week is more than a competition. It's not about who wins. It's about our heritage. It's about continuing the legacy of the Diné people. We've been sidelined for so long; we want the world to know that we are forever strong, forever resilient, much like every Indigenous nation in America."



Oshkailliah Lakota Iron Shell, 19

This pageant is a dream for every Diné girl—and I was one of them. I would watch how graceful all the previous Miss Navajo presented themselves and never realized how much dedication and work it was for them. They've accomplished so much for us, for our nation. I was mentored by a former Miss Navajo, Audra J. Etsitty Platero, and time with her inspired me to compete, to aim higher."

I was raised catholic and learned to express love and selflessness. As a child, I would always go out of my way to give someone money, even a meal. People in need always break my heart. So, to now have a chance to help my community, especially our youth who've lost their parents this past year, and even before the pandemic due to the ongoing missing and murdered indigenous women crisis, would be the center of what I do."

I've seen my generation, my mother's generation, struggle. Some are still dealing with homelessness and unemployment, not knowing where they'd eat or sleep each day—something the pandemic only made worse. I want to raise more awareness of that growing issue. I want to ask and find solutions to, Where are the resources for them? What can we do to make sure each one has a place to rest their head at night? Who do they turn to?"

I am a bit nervous about competing. I think we all are because it's a huge responsibility that can shape our Nation. But I'm also looking forward to seeing how my sisters and I will do in every event. It's our way to show the world we are still here."

Read more at: https://www.glamour.com/story/inside-the-miss-navajo-nation-pageant?utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=syndication&mbid=synd_yahoo_rss

Bulletin Board

The Navajo Nation Council Congratulates Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge in her New Role as Goodwill Ambassador

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The 24th Navajo Nation Council congratulated Niagara Rockbridge on her crowning today as Miss Navajo Nation 2021-2022 during a virtual coronation ceremony at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz.

"We thank the family and the communities that raised Niagara to be the resilient young woman she is today," said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhááí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé'ichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). "As an advocate for our people, her leadership will impact many lives and inspire the younger generation to serve one day. We believe in her."

Rockbridge is Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House), born for Hashk'aa hadzohi (Yucca Fruit-Strung- Out-In-A-Line), her maternal grandparents are Naakai dine'é (Mexican Clan), and her paternal grandparents are Tó'áhani (Near the Water Clan). Her parents are Deborah and Gary Rockbridge from the Tselani/Cottonwood and Piñon communities.

"Ms. Rockbridge has led her peers championing the issues of our youth to the Navajo Nation Council and before the United Nations as a member of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council," said Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/ Cottonwood, Low Mountain) "She brings people together. The communities we both represent are proud to recognize her as the goodwill ambassador of the Navajo people."

Following COVID-19 safety guidelines, contestants wore face masks while participating in a week-long pageant that included a sheep butchering contest, professional interviews, and a traditional and contemporary skills talent competition.

"The role of Miss Navajo Nation is to be an ambassador of the largest sovereign nation in the United States and through her leadership, embody the beauty, strength, and compassion of our matriarchs," said Speaker Seth Damon. "Former Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish is a representation of this and we thank her for two years of service that uplifted the voices of Indigenous women across Indian Country."

Parrish served an unprecedented term as Miss Navajo Nation from 2019 to 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Enrolled at Arizona State University in a master's degree program with the W.P. Carey School of Business, she plans to graduate in the spring. Parrish advocated for elders and young people while also leading distribution drives that provided water, food, and essential items to families across the Navajo Nation.

Read more at: <https://files.constantcontact.com/0401fa70801/4e64ad0b-7b62-42aa-b063-59c53213b79b.pdf>

Elders to receive new senior center in Nazlini with finalization of grant agreement



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Read more at: <https://bit.ly/39Cwtx6>

Kayenta community breaks ground on new wellness center



KAYENTA, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez had the honor of joining community members, 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, Navajo County Justice of the Peace Judge Susie Nelson, Kayenta Acting Town Manager Stephen Young, and Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program staff for the Kayenta Wellness Center groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, in Kayenta, Ariz.

The \$2.1 million wellness center was funded through the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program and will be located near the

Kayenta Recreation Park. The wellness center will include cycling, Zumba, a kitchen, and fitness classrooms. The Nez-Lizer Administration successfully advocated for the extension of the Special Diabetes Project by Congress last year, which will continue to provide funding to combat diabetes on the Navajo Nation.

"The new wellness center symbolizes growth toward a healthier future and the ability to fight against COVID-19, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression and other mental health issues, alcohol/substance abuse, and other health issues. There is a need to take care of ourselves, families, and communities, and I encourage everyone to utilize the new wellness center through the practice of T'áá Hwó Aji Téego, or self-reliance and self-determination," said President Nez during the event.

The wellness center will provide nutrition education, diabetes prevention education, and physical activities for the community of Kayenta and surrounding communities.

"It is important for our Navajo citizens to remain healthy and strong. Diabetes and other related health concerns have taken a toll on our people, and we need to fight back. Physical activity is

a preventable action to avoid illnesses and diseases," said Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program Kayenta Supervisor Joan Gray.

"Physical and mental health and overall wellness remain as a top priority for the Nez-Lizer Administration. As Vice President in the last administration, we prioritized building new wellness centers throughout the Navajo Nation. Since then, we have broken ground for wellness centers in Shiprock, Crownpoint, and Kayenta. We congratulate the community of Kayenta and commend the local leadership, community members, and the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program for working together to promote health and wellness," added President Nez.

During the event, Navajo Nation former Vice President Rex Lee Jim provided a traditional blessing and prayer for the groundbreaking site, Monument Valley High School JROTC program posted the Colors, and Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program manager Charlene Begay provided the benediction.

The Kayenta Wellness Center is expected to be completed in early 2022.

Read more at: <https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2021/Sep/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20Kayenta%20community%20breaks%20ground%20on%20new%20wellness%20center.pdf>

Bulletin Board

Tonalea families to receive long-awaited power line extensions with signing of agreement by President Nez



families in Tonalea, Ariz. as he finalized a subgrant agreement between the Navajo Nation and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to extend power lines to homes in the community of Tonalea, Ariz., which will provide long-awaited electricity to at least 23 the families – many of whom have lived their entire lives without electricity.

Tonalea Chapter President Darryl Jim, Tonalea Chapter Vice President Leslie Dele, Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish, Legislative District Assistant for Council Delegate Paul Begay, and Jerry Williams joined President Nez for the signing. President Nez spoke about the importance of building and improving the Nation's infrastructure to provide long-term benefits for communities and families. In 2019, President Nez and Vice President Lizer also approved \$3 million

for the design and construction of a new chapter house, which is near completion.

"Two years ago, Vice President Lizer and I were here in Tonalea to sign off on funding for a new chapter house facility. I am excited to be here today with all of the leaders and families to move us another step forward to make this community stronger and to help build our Nation. With every bit of funding that we secure, we need to think about the long-term vision for our communities and the steps we need to take to ensure that future generations have the basic infrastructure in place years from now. I thank the current and former Tonalea Chapter leaders, NTUA, and many others who supported this effort for many years," said President Nez.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3tqb1xS>

TONALEA, Ariz. – On Saturday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by elders and

Arizona among first states to offer digital IDs, licenses through Apple Wallet



Your driver's license and state ID cards could soon go digital.

Apple announced Wednesday that Arizona is among a handful of states to be the first to introduce the digital Wallet option to residents. The exact rollout date has not yet been disclosed.

The Wallet feature allows you to securely save your credit cards, insurance cards, event and travel tickets, and other documents to your iPhone and Apple Watch. Apple says it will soon also offer home, apartment, and hotel keys through Wallet. However, it's widening its reach first with driver's licenses and state identification cards.

"Arizona and Georgia will be the first states to introduce this new innovation to their residents, with Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Utah to follow," a press release states.

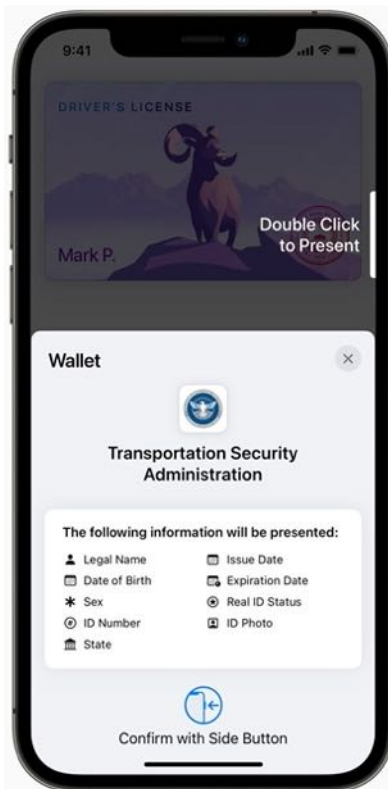
"Arizona is at the leading edge of states making mobile IDs available to the public..." said Eric Jorgensen, director of the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division, in the press release. "Beyond being innovative and exciting, a digital version of a driver's license offers increased



security and privacy for our residents, making it something everyone should consider."

Select Transportation Security Administration checkpoints will offer lanes at some airports where travelers can use a digital Wallet ID as identification. Those locations have not yet been released.

Apple says Wallet is more convenient and also more private and secure than carrying physical cards, even if you lose your phone. You can access your cards only through unlocking your



phone, utilizing biometric data, encryption, and Face and Touch ID. There is also the option to remotely erase a device offer in case of an emergency.

ADOT already offers a mobile ID app, allowing users to show ID securely on their phone. ADOT says the phone app can be used at participating locations to verify your identity.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.abc15.com/news/state/arizona-among-first-states-to-offer-digital-ids-licenses-through-apple-wallet>

Bulletin Board

National Science Foundation grants \$10M to empower Native food, energy, and water expertise

The National Science Foundation a \$10 million grant to a higher education program aimed at broadening Indigenous career pathways in food, energy and water systems.

The awardee, called the Native FEWS Alliance, focuses on expanding the career field in food, energy and water systems (FEWS) within Native American communities. It also provides educational resources for Indigenous students to build these systems within their own communities. The alliance includes the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Arizona in collaboration with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's network of tribal colleges and more than twenty other partners.

Both the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Arizona had previously offered training programs that provided educational resources for the Native FEWS Alliance.

Karletta Chief, an associate professor of environmental science at the University of Arizona and a leader with the alliance, says she wants to bring communities together and build a network to help Native American students excel in careers of food, energy and water systems.

"We came together because we had a lot of synergy between our training programs, and we were thinking about how we can take this to the next level and really increase the reach more times than our existing programs," Chief said about the alliance.

The next step was creating workshops on food, energy and water systems, which partners expected to happen in June 2020, but these plans were altered because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We convened three workshops on the subject, and it was supposed to be in person at Diné College in Arizona and then COVID struck," said Alice Agonino, Blum Center education director and professor of mechanical engineering at the University of California at Berkeley.

Eighty people were expected to attend the in-person workshop, but the COVID-19 pandemic changed those plans, transitioning it into a virtual experience.

"We converted to an online format, and we were worried, but it was actually good for us because we had over four hundred people registered for the event," said Agonino.

According to Agonino, the workshop consisted of conversations with representatives from governmental agencies, students from tribal colleges, and the general public about challenges American Indian people face in these topics.

They asked the students, "What are your biggest challenges?" said Chief. "How can we better support you?"

"We learned from these workshops that there is a crisis in access to food, energy and water systems in Indigenous communities, and they're limited in educational and career pathways available to Indigenous populations to address these needs," Agonino said.

Chief said these challenges in Indian Country should be addressed and solved by Native American people.

"We used our knowledge and understanding that came out of all these discussions to write this NSF INCLUDES proposal," Agonino said.

The partners incorporated their findings from the workshops into their proposal, which was submitted to the NSF in January 2021, and the project officially started this month.

"We actually made it happen relatively fast," Chief said. "It was even more at the forefront of our minds because of the pandemic."

Chief said that the first year of the project will consist of developing the curriculum. The second through fourth years will be a refining process, including workshops and trainings, collecting feedback from the communities and making alterations to the curriculum. The group will publish its curriculum in the final year.

"It's a five-year program, and we are using an Indigenous framework, which will be really interesting," said Kathy Isaacson, a leader with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, an organization described as the backbone for the alliance. "We're planning the evaluation will be ongoing, so the project will adjust based on evaluation activities."

Isaacson explains her hopes for the Native FEWS Alliance in four steps: "First, doing the actual work; second, we want to develop an appropriate curriculum; third, we want to transform the STEM field to be more relevant and accessible to Indigenous communities; fourth, increase the Indigenous students studying FEWS so they can bring back the knowledge to their communities," she said.

"We hope to produce Indigenous FEWS experts who are educated within their higher education settings so they can bring that knowledge back to their communities and address those urgent challenges," Isaacson added.

Chief wants to create a network for Native American students to have better connections and resources to help them in their educational and careers in food, energy and water systems.

"I wanted to work with my own community, but that wasn't supported in my field, and I never was able to do that until I got my Ph.D.," said Chief, a



citizen of the Navajo Nation. "I hope this network will be that type of support for students to more easily find those opportunities to go back and work with their communities."

"Our ultimate goal is to recruit, retain, and graduate Indigenous students in education, particularly with food, energy and water systems," added Agonino. "I think the youth are particularly important because they are the future."

Diana Dalbotten, director of diversity and broader impacts program at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory at University of Minnesota, said that when Native students broaden their networks and meet Native scholars in their academic fields, they tend to be more successful.

According to Dalbotten, the decisions concerning food, energy and water systems are largely being made by non-Indian politicians, scholars and scientists. And she believes that these decisions should include Native voices.

"Diversity in sciences is more than just an issue of fairness about who gets to be a scientist or who gets to participate in science, but it's about who gets to participate in all of the big decisions in making what happens in our country," Dalbotten said.

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

President Nez meets with the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

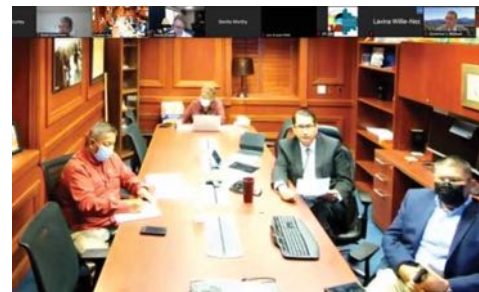
WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, the Navajo Department of Emergency Management, Navajo Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim, Office of the President and Vice President Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco, Deputy Chief of Staff Milton Bluehouse, Jr., and other tribal leaders met virtually with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator, Deanne Criswell on Thursday, to request support and additional resources for emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and technical assistance on the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Department of Emergency Management has worked closely with FEMA Region IX and VI to mitigate severe storms and emergencies in 2013, 2019, and 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, FEMA has played a vital role in the Navajo Nation Operations Command Center by stationing several emergency response experts at the command center to provide technical assistance, conduct assessments, and coordinate additional resources.

"The war against COVID-19 continues on the Navajo Nation, and we appreciate the assistance and support we received from FEMA. They have been instrumental in securing and coordinating resources for healthcare facilities, chapters, and our Navajo people. FEMA has also provided training and expertise to help build our Nation's capacity to respond to emergencies and disasters. However, there is always room for improvement and coordination to reduce or eliminate long-term risks and losses caused by disasters or emergencies," said President Nez.

During the meeting, President Nez spoke about the need for FEMA Disaster Reservists on the Navajo Nation to assist with FEMA's reimbursement process, and most importantly, to help disaster survivors and first responders. He also requested a stationed FEMA representative on the Navajo Nation to prepare for the inevitable impacts of future disasters.

"In regards to reimbursements under the FEMA Public Assistance Program, the process has



improved from past emergencies, but technical assistance is simultaneously needed from Region 6 and 9 to ensure funds are reinvested back to the Navajo Nation's local governments, programs, and departments," added President Nez.

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell thanked all tribal leaders for their input and recommendations and looks forward to working with tribal nations, including the Navajo Nation.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3tusC7U>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
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Administrative Service Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	26,726.40	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
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Red Valley, AZ	37,709.28	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Cameron, AZ	37,709.28	09/29/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Coyote Canyon, NM	37,709.28	10/04/2021
Administrative Services Officer (S)	Dilkon, AZ	43,910.64	10/04/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	37,709.28	10/06/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Smith Lake, NM	37,709.28	10/06/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	37,709.28	10/06/2021
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Nenahnezad, NM	26,726.40	10/06/2021

Capital Projects Management Department

Registered Architect(S)	Window Rock, AZ	67,191.84	10/04/2021
Project Manager	Window Rock, AZ	43,910.64	10/06/2021
Construction Supervisor (S)	Window Rock, AZ	37,709.28	10/06/2021

(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

“Every day may not be good,
 but there’s something
 good in every day.”

— Alice Morse Earle

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

Native American Redistricting Proposals Nearly Finished

Maps Will Give More Self-Determination In Future Elections

By Associated Press

September 10th, 2021 at 03:10 pm

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – Native American communities across New Mexico are putting the finishing touches on proposed redistricting maps aimed at greater self-determination in future public elections, as competing plans wind their way toward the Legislature for consideration.

Participants in a redistricting commission for New Mexico's Indigenous pueblo communities said Friday that map proposals may be finalized as soon as next week.

The maps will be submitted to a seven-member Citizen Redistricting Commission that is reviewing and vetting redistricting maps for the Legislature, which can adopt recommendations or start from scratch. The seven-seat commission has no Native American representation.

New Mexico is home to 23 federally recognized tribes, whose growing political clout is reflected in the election of Laguna Pueblo tribal member Deb Haaland to Congress in 2016 and her promotion this year to Secretary of the Interior.

Attorney Joseph Little is working with a broad alliance of Native American communities to turn redistricting principles into action using the results of the 2020 census to track population changes.

He said the census numbers were only provided recently because of a federal delay that held up their release for months. Major redistricting changes are most likely in the heavily Native American northwest region of the state and an oil-producing region in the southeast.

"It's important that we get these maps in early," Little said. "We didn't have the census numbers until recently."

The share of New Mexico residents who identify themselves as Indigenous by race or by combined ancestry was 12.4% according to census results announced in August. Alaska was the most predominantly Native American state, followed by Oklahoma and then New Mexico.

At the same time, Native American politicians have ascended to top legislative leadership posts on committees overseeing taxation, Indian affairs, agriculture and elections, though some frustrations persist about the distribution of state resources to tribal communities.

In April, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat, signed a bill that funnels more federal "impact aid" to schools in Native American communities to offset property tax losses on tax-exempt federal and tribal lands.

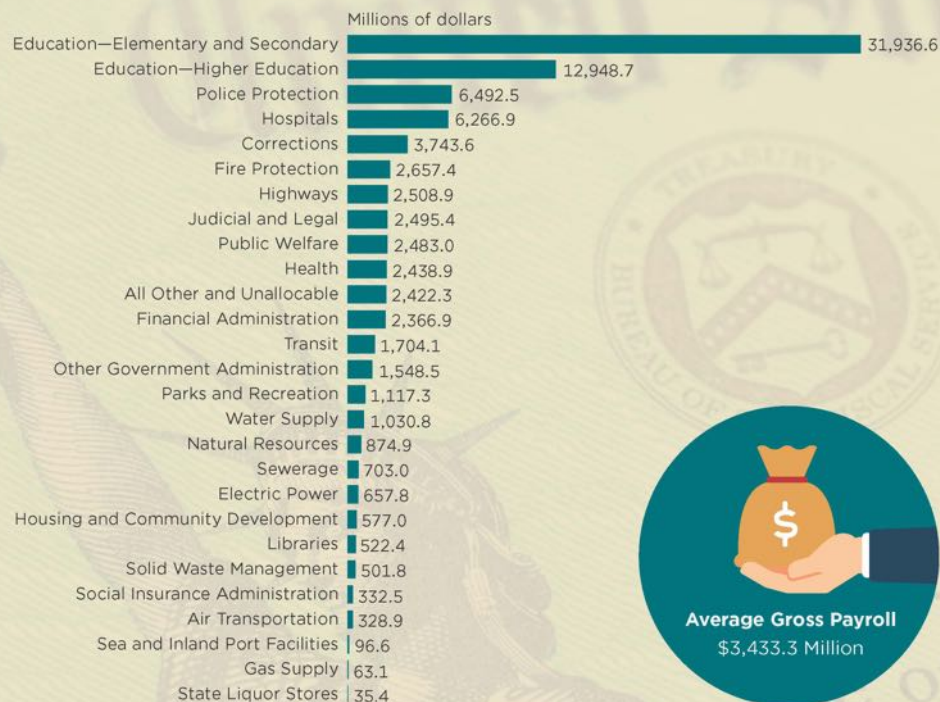
State Rep. Georgene Louis of Acoma Pueblo on Friday commended tribal communities for their engagement in the redistricting process.

"In New Mexico, I think we're very fortunate, where the tribes are very active in looking at how we can ensure that we're involved in the process of selecting our own representatives that will then hold the state accountable," she said.

READ MORE AT: <https://abq.news/2021/09/native-american-redistricting-proposals-nearly-finished/>

Government Payroll

Gross Payroll for Select State and Local Government Functions



Note: Gross payroll is for the month of March 2020 and includes both total full-time and part-time gross payroll.

Most Business Owners Have a Bachelor's Degree

Highest Level of Education Obtained by U.S. Business Owners in 2019



Note: The Annual Business Survey is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation. Owner counts do not represent all business owners. Estimates only represent responding owners for employer businesses (3.9 million). The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied (Approval ID CBDRB-FY21-289).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, 2020 Annual Business Survey, data year 2019.

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.



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

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

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