

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021

## In this Issue

- Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclaimed
- Heavy Equipment Updates
- ASC Provides Chapter Orientations During the Week of October 25-29, 2021
- How Not to Get Hacked!!
- Bulletin Board
- Personnel News
- Navajo Nation Census Information Center News
- Navajo Safe Water Project Flyer
- COVID-19 Safe Practices: Reopening Guidelines for In Person Training and Meetings

## Did You Know...

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

## Where is Bear Sun?

St. Clairsville, Ohio



## Events:

### October: Ghąąji' - "Separation of Seasons"

- October 1: International Coffee Day
- October 11: Indigenous Peoples' Day
- October 31: Halloween

### November: Nítch'its'ósi - "Slender Winds"

- November 7: Daylight Saving Time Ends
- November 11: Veteran's Day
- November 18: Great American Smokeout
- November 25: Thanksgiving
- November 26: Navajo Nation Family Day

## Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclaimed



U.S. Photo by grandriver/E+ Getty Images/The Conversation via Azmiror.com

Washington DC, USA - Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America officially proclaimed October 11, 2021 as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

It was first proposed at United Nations conference in 1977, however was adopted until 1989 by South Dakota, who officially started celebrating it the next year. Acknowledged and adopted by Arizona, Oregon, Texas, Louisiana, Washington, DC and several other states and cities has predicated the official proclamation by the current Biden Administration. To read the proclamation read here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/10/08/a-proclamation-indigenous-peoples-day-2021/>

**"Today, we acknowledge the significant sacrifices made by Native peoples to this country — and recognize their many ongoing contributions to our Nation."**

- Proclamation on Indigenous Peoples' Day

# Heavy Equipment Updates

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

## September - October Deliveries

September 24 - Teec Nos Pos - Truck

September 29 - Kaibeto - Backhoe

October 18 - Mariano Lake - Truck

October 27 - White Cone - Backhoe

October 27 - Pinon - Backhoe

October 27 - Hardrock - Backhoe





# ASC Provides Chapter Orientations During the Week of October 25-29, 2021

The Administrative Service Centers (ASC) Department kicked off the new fiscal year in October with orientations to all 110 Navajo Nation Chapters. The ASC hosted virtual teleconferences with all local Navajo chapter employees and elected chapter officials from all five Agencies during the week of October 25th to 29th, 2021.

The ASC Department is preparing chapters to return to full operation in a safe manner due to the COVID-19 pandemic and provided orientations on important topics critical to chapter operations and daily business. Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Department Manager, provided an update on the Navajo Nation FEMA Reimbursement efforts and introduced the new FEMA Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The new FEMA Representatives are led by Mr. William Cleveland and his team is working closely with Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director of the Navajo Department of Health (NDOH) and the Health Command Operation Center (HCOC). The FEMA team will be assisting the ASC Department of regional offices with assisting all 110 Chapters with their FEMA Reimbursement requests for the COVID-19 Emergency response.

The orientations included a presentation by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (DOJ) Chapter Unit, led by Rodgerick Begay, regarding the most recent policy enacted by the Navajo Nation Council and signed by the President of the Navajo

October 2021

Nation. Resolution CS-50-21: Amending CJN-36-21; extended the deadline for the Chapter 25-Person Quorum and continues to allow Chapter Telecommunications so Chapters may continue to use telephonic or other electronic means as a supplement to meet their quorum requirement during the COVID-19 Emergency declaration. The deadline for chapters to return to their full quorum requirement is December 30th and the ASC Offices are providing technical assistance and support to get their assigned chapters prepared and ready.

COVID-19 safety guidelines and guidance was provided by the Navajo Nation Safety & Loss Control Program with the Health Command Operation Center (HCOC). Mr. John Platero, Jr. provided general information on how to prevent exposure to the COVID-19 virus, how to avoid exposure, and clarification on what to do if there is a suspected exposure at the Chapter level. Guidance was provided to the participating Chapter staff and officials on making the Chapter offices a “safe zone” and explained that the Chapters need to make it mandatory that social distancing be observed inside the offices and wearing of masks is required. Implementing a regular disinfecting “wipe-down” schedule every 2 hours and after a visitor has left the Chapter public area is strongly recommended.

The last presentation at the orientations was an overview of the Navajo Nation Ethics & Rules Office and the Navajo Ethics in Government Law presented by Dempsey Harvey, Investigator. With the COVID-19 emergency and changes in business practices at the chapter level, important reminders were provided to Elected Officials and Chapter employees. All 110 Navajo Chapters are encouraged to make every effort to provide all residents of their community with equal opportunity to speak on issues before the Chapter. Sonlatsa Jim-Martin stated, “This can be done safely and effectively with in-person public meetings combined with the use of teleconference virtual meetings. This may be the new normal for Chapter meetings moving forward.”

**For further clarification and technical assistance, the 110 Chapters can contact their assigned ASC Offices and points of contact:**

**Eastern Agency Chapters:** Casey Begay ([casey\\_begay@nndcd.org](mailto:casey_begay@nndcd.org))  
Guarena Adeky ([gadeky@nndcd.org](mailto:gadeky@nndcd.org))

**Central Agency Chapters:** Edgerton Gene ([egene@nndcd.org](mailto:egene@nndcd.org))  
Eunice Begay ([ejbegay@nndcd.org](mailto:ejbegay@nndcd.org))

**Western Agency Chapters:** Calvin Tsosie ([cetsosie@nndcd.org](mailto:cetsosie@nndcd.org))  
Milford Maloney ([mmaloney@nndcd.org](mailto:mmaloney@nndcd.org))

**Northern Agency Chapters:** Elizabeth Washburn ([eliza-beth@nndcd.org](mailto:eliza-beth@nndcd.org))  
**Ft. Defiance Agency Chapters:** Patricia Begay ([pdbegay@nndcd.org](mailto:pdbegay@nndcd.org))

# HOW NOT TO GET HACKED!!



## Top 10 Secure Computing Tips

### Tip #1 - You are a target to hackers

- 👹 Don't ever say, "It won't happen to me." We are all at risk and the stakes are high - both for your personal and financial well-being and for the university's standing and reputation.
- 👹 Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility.

By following the tips below and remaining vigilant, you are doing your part to protect yourself and others.

### Tip #2 - Keep software up-to-date

- 👹 Installing software updates for your operating system and programs is critical. Always install the latest security updates for your devices:
- 👹 Turn on Automatic Updates for your operating system.
- 👹 Use web browsers such as Chrome or Firefox that receive frequent, automatic security updates.
- 👹 Make sure to keep browser plug-ins (Flash, Java, etc.) up-to-date.

### Tip #3 - Avoid Phishing scams - beware of suspicious emails and phone calls

- 👹 Phishing scams are a constant threat - using various social engineering(link is external) ploys, cyber-criminals will attempt to trick you into divulging personal information such as your login ID and password, banking or credit card information.
- 👹 Phishing scams can be carried out by phone, text, or through social networking sites - but most commonly by email.
- 👹 Be suspicious of any official-looking email message or phone call that asks for personal or financial information.

### Tip #4 - Practice good password management

- 👹 We all have too many passwords to manage - and it's easy to take short-cuts, like reusing the same password. A password manager can help you to maintain strong unique passwords for all of your accounts. These programs can generate strong passwords for you, enter credentials automatically, and remind you to update your passwords periodically.

### Tip #5 - Be careful what you click

- 👹 Avoid visiting unknown websites or downloading software from untrusted sources. These sites often host malware that will automatically install (often silently) and compromise your computer.
- 👹 If attachments or links in the email are unexpected or suspicious for any reason, don't click on it. ISO recommends using Click-to-Play(link is external) or NoScript(link is external), browser add-on features that prevent the automatic download of plug-in content (e.g., Java, Flash) and scripts that can harbor malicious code



**Tip #6 - Never leave devices unattended**

- 👾 The physical security of your devices is just as important as their technical security.
- 👾 If you need to leave your laptop, phone, or tablet for any length of time - lock it up so no one else can use it.
- 👾 If you keep protected data on a flash drive or external hard drive, make sure their encrypted and locked up as well.
- 👾 For desktop computers, lock your screen or shut-down the system when not in use.

**Tip #7 - Safeguard Protected Data**

- 👾 Be aware of Protected Data that you come into contact with and its associated restrictions. Review the UCB Data Classification Standard to understand data protection level requirements. In general:
- 👾 Keep high-level Protected Data (e.g., SSN's, credit card information, student records, health information, etc.) off of your workstation, laptop, or mobile devices.
- 👾 Securely remove sensitive data files from your system when they are no longer needed.
- 👾 Always use encryption when storing or transmitting sensitive data.
- 👾 Unsure of how to store or handle sensitive data contact your local Tech Support.

**Tip #8 - Use mobile devices safely**

- 👾 Considering how much we rely on our mobile devices and how susceptible they are to attack, you'll want to make sure you are protected:
- 👾 Lock your device with a PIN or password - and never leave it unprotected in public.
- 👾 Only install apps from trusted sources (Apple AppStore, Google Play).
- 👾 Keep the device's operating system up-to-date.
- 👾 Don't click on links or attachments from unsolicited emails or texts.
- 👾 Avoid transmitting or storing personal information on the device.
- 👾 Most handheld devices are capable of employing data encryption - consult your device's documentation for available options.
- 👾 Use Apple's Find my iPhone(link is external) or the Android Device Manager(link is external) tools to help prevent loss or theft.

**Tip #9 - Install antivirus/anti-malware protection**

- 👾 Only install these programs from a known and trusted source. Keep virus definitions, engines and software up-to-date to ensure your programs remains effective.

**Tip #10 - Back up your data**

- 👾 Back up regularly - if you are a victim of a security incident, the only guaranteed way to repair your computer is to erase and reinstall the system - ask your local technical support.

Thank you: <https://security.berkeley.edu/resources/best-practices-how-to-articles/top-10-secure-computing->



# Bulletin Board

## Rural Addressing Office Receives Award from ESRI



Over the summer,, the Navajo Nation Water Access Team's "Navajo Safe Water: Protecting You and Your Family's Health" story map was selected as one of the winners of the 2021 ESRI Tribal Story Map Challenge. DCD was part of the Water Access Team along with IHS, NNDOH, and several other Navajo Nation entities and external partners. The Water Access Team created their award-winning story map and submitted it to ESRI for the challenge.

The winners were announced earlier this year, but recently, the Water Access Team received their awards including a plaque (pictured above) and free software licenses and training. DCD's Rural Addressing team became the beneficiaries of a one-year five (5) user ArcGIS Online Account and free ESRI training worth \$2,500.

Rachelle Silver-Tagaban, Rural Addressing/GIS Technician, redeemed the free training by taking the "Creating and Editing in ArcGIS Pro" 2-day (16-hour) online training course on October 7-8.

## 10,000 Infrastructure Projects Proposed, \$2.1 Billion in ARPA Funds to be Allocated

TWIN ARROWS, Ariz. – On Friday, the 24th Navajo Nation Council met with President Jonathan Nez and Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne to finalize over \$950 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for over 10,000 infrastructure and economic development projects.

In addition, a second allocation for hardship assistance payments is being considered for families during this pandemic. Any future check allocations will follow the process previously approved for the Office of the Controller (OOC).

Earlier this year, the Navajo Nation received approximately \$2.1 billion in ARPA funds from the Biden Administration to respond to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Council is working with our Executive Branch divisions and programs to invest over \$1.8 billion in 10,000 projects across the Navajo Nation," said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tseyatoh) "We are working together to carefully allocate ARPA money for our small businesses, Chapter projects, the tourism industry, and our infrastructure initiatives. The Navajo people need jobs and immediate assistance. We will get through this pandemic together as one nation."

In Resolution No. CJY-41-21, the 24th Navajo Nation Council established the Fiscal Recovery Fund (NNFRF) and the Expenditure Authorization Process for ARPA funds, including a procurement process with oversight guidelines. President Jonathan Nez signed the legislation into law in August.

Important topics presented to the Council include the One-Stop-Shop initiative, a \$411 million reimbursement to the Sihazin Fund & Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUF) project list, and the Defunded CARES project list.

Executive Branch divisions shared the following ARPA funding proposal:

- \$220 for Chapter community projects
- \$220 million for housing and bathroom addition construction
- \$200 million for internet broadband connections
- \$200 million for water lines and wastewater projects
- \$160 million for power line projects
- \$100 million for tribal enterprises
- \$90 million for economic development projects
- \$80 million for educational initiatives for schools, tribal colleges, libraries, and youth programs
- \$80 million for social services



- \$80 million for senior centers, wellness centers, detox centers, and traditional housing
- \$20 million for the tourism industry

"There is a real need during this pandemic to create Navajo jobs that employ our people at each ARPA infrastructure project," said Delegate Otto Tso (Tónaneesdizi) "We have four years to spend this money, so we have to begin building water lines, constructing homes, and investing over \$100 million into our tribal enterprises hit hardest by COVID-19."

As part of this larger plan, the Navajo Division of Economic Development (DED) outlined a three-year ARPA spending plan for economic development to assist communities beginning in January 2022. Thirteen proposed projects will receive \$77.6 million for the first ARPA allocation. \$18 million will then be provided to three additional projects in 2023. This brings a total of \$95.6 million invested by 2024 in new economic opportunities for the Navajo people.

"In order to work together, the lines of communication between all branches of the Navajo government have to be open and transparent," said Delegate Wilson Stewart, Jr. (Fort Defiance, Crystal, Red Lake, Sawmill) "Our people are ready to get to work in their communities. They can design, construct and oversee our ARPA projects. We will get through this pandemic and the ARPA funds are a major investment into the future of the Navajo Nation."

The Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund with the Office of the Controller (OOC) created a website to share all ARPA updates and information with the Navajo people. The website can be accessed at [www.NavajoNationARPA.org](http://www.NavajoNationARPA.org)

Read more at: <https://files.constantcontact.com/0401fa70801116747efb-b281-4b17-b399-9960476012a3.pdf>

## Navajo woman picked to head humanities endowment

The Harvard University scholar will be the nation's first Native American to serve as chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities if confirmed by the Senate

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced his picks to head the National Endowments for the Humanities and the Arts, tapping a Harvard University scholar and an Arizona State University professor to oversee the federal agencies.

If confirmed by the Senate, Shelly Lowe, who is the executive director of Harvard University's Native American program, will be the nation's first Native American to serve as chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and grew up in Ganado, Arizona.

Maria Rosario Jackson, if confirmed, will be the first African American and Mexican American to serve as chairperson for the National Endowment for the Arts. Jackson is a professor at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State, where she also holds an appointment in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

She's served as co-chair of the County of Los Angeles Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative, and is currently on the advisory boards of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the Equity Center at the University of Virginia, and several arts organizations in Los Angeles.

The humanities and arts endowments were established by Congress in 1965 and are independent federal agencies that support research, education and development in the arts and humanities through partnerships with state and local leaders, other federal agencies and the philanthropic sector.

Lowe is a member of the National Council on the Humanities, an appointment she received from President Barack Obama. She served on the board of the National Indian Education Association and as a National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustee.



Jackson was appointed by Obama in 2013 to the the National Council on the Arts, which advises the NEA chairman.

READ MORE AT: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/navajo-woman-picked-to-head-humanities-endowment>

# Bulletin Board

## Navajo council approves \$19 Million for Church Rock Factory, creates 350 jobs on Nation



CHURCH ROCK, N.M. – On Oct. 1, Budget & Finance Chairman Jamie Henio (Alamo, Ramah, Tóhajiilee) joined Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development

for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Phase II expansion of the Rhino Health factory located in Church Rock, New Mexico.

The forthcoming 100,000 square-foot facility will manufacture "Made in the Navajo Nation" nitrile gloves – necessary PPE to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during this pandemic.

"The Navajo people are deserving of good jobs that are located here on our homeland," Henio said. "This expansion is an investment for the Church Rock community. Speaker Damon and the Navajo Nation Council plan for more construction projects that will create jobs and uplift our economy during a pandemic. This groundbreaking is the first step."

In October 2019, Speaker Seth sponsored Legislation No. 0180-19 allocating 19,297,576 million dollars from the Sihasin Fund for the construction of the factory and employing over 350 Navajo people. The 24th Navajo Nation Council passed the bill with 19 in favor and 0 opposed.

"Job creation and the development of infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation is a top priority. Especially when small businesses and companies locate these jobs in our communities," Damon said. "The expansion of the Church Rock factory is one of many other economic

proposals that will jumpstart the Navajo economy and keep our people employed. We thank the Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority for their leadership."

Phase II expansion will increase the production and distribution of nitrile latex gloves, with 100 percent Navajo labor to construct the facility.

"Over the last four years, we have called the Navajo Nation home. In the United States, it is estimated that 500 billion latex gloves are made in a month. That means the Navajo people will make 1.5 billion gloves over the next year. This state of the art facility will exponentially grow our production and transportation operations. It positions us to meet market demand for a Navajo product," said Mark Lee, Rhino Health, LLC, CEO.

Sihasin Funds were invested for this project. The fund was created to provide financial support and financing for the planning and development of regional infrastructure projects. This includes the construction of housing, waterlines, solid waste management projects, transportation, and the installation of powerline and communication systems for the Navajo Nation.

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

## Navajo Nation and Red Water Pond Road community residents oppose proposal to transfer uranium mine waste near the homes of Navajo residents



PINEDALE, N.M. – On Saturday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Executive Director Valinda Shirley met with members of Red Water Pond Road Community Association, which was founded in 2006 by Navajo residents residing near the Northeast Church Rock Mines, the Tronox Quivira Mines, and the United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site. The group spoke with President Nez regarding opposition to the transfer of uranium mine waste from the Northeast Church Rock abandoned uranium mines to the Mill Site, located approximately one mile from the border of the Navajo Nation.

President Nez, with the support of the association, requested a second extension for the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a document prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that describes the impacts on the environment as a result of a proposed license amendment for the United Nuclear Corporation Church Rock Project. The

extension is crucial for Navajo communities to review and to provide comments.

"The Navajo people have endured decades of radiation exposure and contamination caused by uranium mining and production, and continues to impact the health of individuals, families, and communities. Together, we strongly oppose the proposed amendment that would allow the transfer of uranium mine waste and contamination just a short distance from the Navajo Nation and the homes of our Navajo people. Our administration has met with the U.S. EPA on numerous occasions and sent many letters to the U.S. EPA and congressional leaders to ensure progress with uranium mine clean-up efforts. Our small Navajo communities have suffered long enough, and the federal government needs to be held liable for all clean-up efforts," said President Nez.

There are approximately 524 abandoned uranium mine sites on the Navajo Nation, and the Navajo Nation EPA estimates that there could be far

more. Unfortunately, only 219 of these sites have available funds for clean-up and remediation efforts, leaving a total of 305 unaddressed sites that pose severe environmental and health hazards to surrounding areas and people.

During the meeting, many residents pleaded with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to remove the Northeast Church Rock Mine waste to an appropriate site far from the boundaries of the Navajo Nation. Residents said they do not want to witness another catastrophic event like the Church Rock Uranium Mill Trailing Spill of July 1979, which remains the most significant release of radioactive material in U.S. history.

"The abandoned uranium mines have severely impacted the Red Water Pond Road Community. Furthermore, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, found serious impacts to groundwater, public and occupational health, and historical and cultural resources from past uranium activities at all of the community's mine sites. The Navajo Nation EPA continues to support the community through research, data collection, technical assistance, and to provide resources to improve the conditions," said Shirley.

President Nez also stated that the Nez-Lizer Administration would continue to work closely with the U.S. EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan, who visited an abandoned uranium site in Cameron, Ariz. in September, to move remediation efforts forward safely.

"The Nez-Lizer Administration continues to advocate for Navajo families who continue to experience long-term health impacts due to radioactive contamination and exposure from abandoned uranium mines. We have to hold the federal government accountable and uphold the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act. We will continue to advocate this position for the health and wellness of our Navajo people," added President Nez.

A follow-up meeting with the Navajo Nation EPA and Red Water Pond Road Community Association is scheduled this week to continue addressing the proposed license amendment.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3nGNF4R>



# Bulletin Board

## President Nez testifies before Congress in support of Native American voting rights



WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez testified before Congressional members on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., in support of Native American voting rights during a hearing titled, “Restoring the Voting Rights Act: Protecting the Native American and Alaska Native Vote.”

President Nez was invited to provide testimony along with Jacqueline De Leon with the Native American Rights Fund, Alaska Federation of Natives Executive Vice President & General Counsel Nicole Borromeo, Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson & Ashmore, LLP Partner Sara Frankenstein, and Wyoming Secretary of State Edward Buchanan.

“I am here today to protect the right to vote for our children, grandchildren, and future generations. Protecting the Native American vote requires considering the unique challenges faced by Navajo voters. The Nation continues to fight repeated efforts by states and their political subdivisions through restrictive voting laws and policies that impede access to the polls.

The Navajo Nation cannot rely on states to provide protections to our right to vote, and therefore calls on Congress to take action. The federal government must fulfill its trust responsibility and safeguard our Navajo citizens’ right to vote,” said President Nez.

His testimony focused on support for the Native American Voting Rights Act, a bill that was recently attached to the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. President Nez also addressed geography, language, institutional barriers, and socio-economic challenges and barriers that impact Navajo voters during elections.

“Many of the citizens of the Navajo Nation live in rural areas and travel long distances to access basic needs and services. Getting to a polling station is often difficult, as transportation options are limited. Our people rely on relatives or clan members for rides because most households only have one vehicle. Travelling to polling places can be particularly burdensome,” President Nez stated.

He also noted that in the 2018 election, some enrolled Navajo Nation members in Arizona had to travel 236 miles roundtrip to participate in early voting. During the 2020 election, some Navajo voters in New Mexico traveled 54-miles to deliver their ballot to the nearest drop box and in the 2018 election, many Navajo voters in Utah drove 392 round trip miles to vote.

Regarding language barriers, President Nez stated that the Navajo language is widely spoken by Navajo voters and it is the primary language for many Navajo people, and also spoke about the lack of rural addressing in many Navajo communities. He also reminded the congressional members that the Navajo language was used by the Navajo Code Talkers to help win World War II and that the Navajo language should be respected

at voting polls by allowing Navajo elders access to voting in for and instructions in the Navajo language.

“Navajo is traditionally an oral, not written language, and many Navajos struggle to read, requiring in-person language assistance to cast a ballot. This means that moving to a complete vote-by-mail system would deny Navajo speakers the opportunity to vote,” he added.

The hearing was hosted by the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on the Constitution, chaired by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) with ranking member Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) in attendance. Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) also spoke in support of Native American voting rights during the hearing.

“We thank Chairman Blumenthal for supporting the Native American Voting Rights Act and are grateful for Senator Leahy’s efforts to include the Act in the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. We look forward to working with the 117th Congress to fully realize protections for Navajos and all Native Americans who wish to exercise their inherent right to vote in the United States,” said President Nez.

The hearing is available to view online:

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/restoring-the-voting-rights-act-protecting-the-native-american-and-alaska-native-vote>. The full written testimony is available online at: [https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/FILES/Latest%20News/2021.10.20\\_Written%20Testimony-Protecting%20the%20Native%20Vote\\_Jonathan%20Nez.pdf](https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/FILES/Latest%20News/2021.10.20_Written%20Testimony-Protecting%20the%20Native%20Vote_Jonathan%20Nez.pdf).

READ MORE AT: <https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2021/Oct/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20President%20Nez%20testifies%20before%20Congress%20in%20support%20of%20Native%20American%20voting%20rights.pdf>

## Melissa Skeet plans 300-mile skating trip across Navajo Nation for MMIW awareness



Former roller derby athlete Melissa Skeet, known as Skeet Fighter, is roller skating more than 300 miles, from Window Rock to Flagstaff and back (the length of The Long Walk) to bring awareness to missing and murdered Indigenous women, children and two-spirit people.

Skeet, who is Diné, will make the trip between Oct. 30 - Nov.6.

Skeet said she found inspiration for the trip from former roller derby athlete Daisy Purdy, who skated more than 2,000 miles in 2020 for Rollin’ for Rock Research, which investigates environmental contamination and ending extractive industry damage to the land, water and health of the Navajo Nation. It also provides direct, immediate COVID-19 response by helping distribute supplies.

Another factor for her wanting to make the trip was the 215 boarding school children that were recently found buried in Kamloops Residential School in Canada. In July, she skated 46.4 miles within a day on the Centennial Trail in Washington to raise awareness for those children.

“I mainly wanted to provide educational awareness to others who don’t understand or know what the government has done to these children,” Skeet said. “It just hit me hard because both of my parents are survivors of boarding schools. Because of that, I don’t have a huge relationship with them because of all the trauma that they’ve suffered. It’s just taken a huge toll on our relationship.”

Skeet recounts when she was a derby girl, she always wanted to bring awareness to missing and murdered Indigenous women, and said she would put a red handprint on her face during a derby game.

“It brought some attention, even in a non-Native place like Jackson Hole, Wyoming,” Skeet said, describing another roller derby sister who was more skeptical because she didn’t know what people would say. “I’m like, ‘I don’t care.’ I’m just going to do it. I put the handprint on my face and that just brought so much attention. The news came out and were asking us about it.”

Skeet said building awareness is important, especially because so little attention is paid to Native women, children or Two-Spirit people who go missing.

“It’s just not taken seriously,” she said.

Skeet decided on the length of The Long Walk, which stretched from Fort Defiance to Fort Sumner, but out of respect for the sacred ground of the exact location of the trail, she decided that skating roundtrip from Window Rock to Flagstaff and back again would work and still be powerful with the landscape that surrounds the area.

Skeet’s goal is to skate 50 miles a day. She has a GPS tracker, which will track her moves.

While she had a health scare, which threw her plans in doubt, Skeet said she is cleared to skate and despite the stress, she’s ready.

“I love roller skating and everything,” she said. “You’re definitely doing something you love, where it hurts your body, but then again, you love it. Once the doctors cleared me, I was like, ‘Now, I’m scared.’ But it’s all just nerves and being scared to do it. But people are like, ‘You’re doing this for a good cause. You’re doing this because you’re passionate about it. You’re doing this because it’s a great thing.’ I have to keep reminding myself of that.”

Skeet said the recent murder of Gabby Petito also made her want to bring more attention to Indigenous women, who experience similar tragedies. Skeets lives and works in Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons, near where Petito was found.

“Everybody was saying, why is this one case getting so much attention?” Skeet said. “We need to pay attention to these cases that are not being heard. These cold cases that are never being solved or even taken seriously. That’s where I started with all of this.”

Skeet said she feels skating is a beautiful way to bring the community and



the world together.

“Roller skating through roller derby was my outlet during a hard time in my life and the family dynamic that was created through the roller derby community was extremely powerful,” she said.

More information or to follow along can be found at Skeet’s Instagram handle @skeet\_fighter. Donations for her crew and to help her journey can be made on Venmo at @Melissa.Skeet.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2021/oct/26/melissa-skeet-plans-300-mile-skating-trip-across/>

October 2021

**PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS**

<b>POSITION TITLE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PAY RATE</b>	<b>CLOSING DATE</b>
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
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)	Tolani Lake, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sanostee, NM	38,836.80	OUF
Office Specialist (S)	Kayenta, AZ	27,519.84	11/05/2021
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Nahondishgish, NM	27,519.84	11/14/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Torreon, NM	38,836.80	11/12/2021

**Capital Projects Management Department**

Programs & Projects Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	41,488.56	10/29/2021
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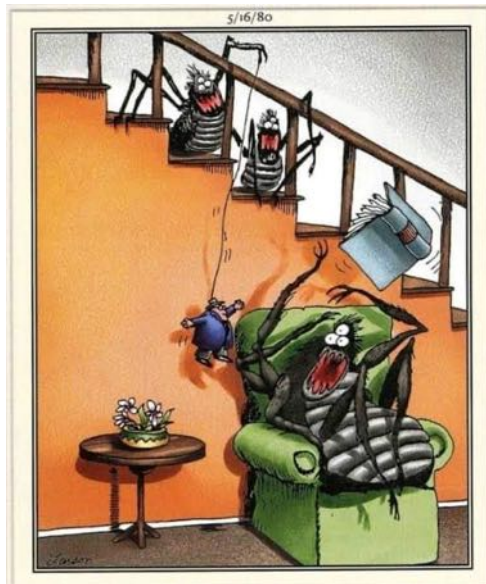
(OUF) Open Until Filled

(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](mailto:asc@nndcd.org)

Division of Community  
Development – ASC  
Department

#### FOR INFO CONTACT:

Local ASC Offices or  
[sjim-martin@nndcd.org](mailto:sjim-martin@nndcd.org)

## New Mexico Tribal Leaders Meet to Address Redistricting Maps

Once every 10 years federal and state districts are drawn up from data released by the U.S. Census. In New Mexico, the state's legislature will vote in December to approve new redistricting maps.

Working to ensure tribal influence is heard by the state legislature, tribal leaders have been meeting to achieve consensus on tribal redistricting maps for New Mexico. Included in the process has been Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Council Speaker Seth Damon and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

Representatives from the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, All Pueblo Council of Governors, and Jicarilla Apache Nation were also present to provide input.

In March 2021, the New Mexico legislature passed Senate Bill No. 204 that creates an advisory commission to draw federal and state lines utilizing 2020 Census information. The committee continues to receive input during public meetings to then draw three plans for congressional and state district maps.

"If we are not on the same page as tribal nations, it is at the advantage of those against us who want to suppress or limit the votes of our Native communities," Speaker Seth Damon said in a statement in a press release. "Every day is Indigenous Peoples' Day for us and we come together to make important decisions to protect the power of the Native vote for our communities. We need one redistricting map that truly represents our tribal nations in New Mexico."

Final map plans with written evaluations are due to the legislature by Oct 30. State lawmakers then can adopt, modify, or ignore the commission's proposals.

According to the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, there are approximately 228,400 Native American citizens in the state - making it 10.9 percent of the entire population. The Navajo Nation has chapter polling

Given the large size of the Navajo Reservation that has election polling sites within McKinley, San Juan, Cibola, Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, Socorro, and Sandoval counties, Navajo Nation leaders want to ensure the districts make sense for tribal members.

"It is evident from the data gathered that Navajo voters do not participate in early voting activities, mail-in their ballots or travel to convenience centers that are widely available in urban areas like Albuquerque," Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Executive Director Leonard Gorman said. "The Navajo people vote in higher numbers on election day, so we have to ensure we make this process easier for them. Our studies show that a Navajo voter pays \$20 for fuel to travel to a chapter house and then a state polling location to vote. Their voting experience is completely different to other tribes around New Mexico."

Following the 2020 Census, New Mexico has apportioned three congressional districts, which was unchanged from 2010. New Mexico's House of Representatives is made up of 70 districts and the State Senate is made up of 42 districts.

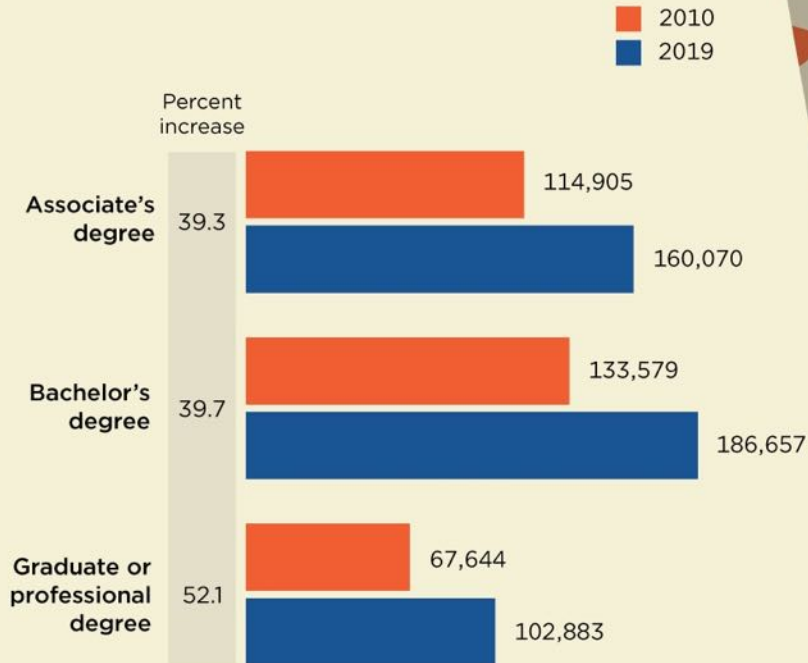
Following a day of deliberations, all tribes agreed to submit one redistricting map for the State House of Representatives and to submit two (2) separate maps for the State Senate. The Navajo Nation will be submitting one map for the Public Education Commission while other tribes opted out to comment.

The New Mexico Legislature plans to convene a special session in early December to adopt the final maps submitted from the independent Citizen Redistricting Committee.

READ MORE AT: <https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/new-mexico-tribal-leaders-meet-to-address-redistricting-maps>

# Educational Attainment for the American Indian and Alaska Native Population

## Growth Between 2010 and 2019



Note: American Indian and Alaska Native population alone, not in combination with any other races. Figures denote people age 25 and over who obtained a degree. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error and definitions, see <[www.census.gov/acs/](http://www.census.gov/acs/)>.

# Veteran-Owned Businesses

(Number per sector)



Note: NAICS sectors grouped by a bracket indicate no statistically significant difference between the estimates at the 90 percent confidence level. Firms with more than one domestic establishment are counted in each industry in which they operate, but only once in the total for all sectors. 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). The Annual Business Survey is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, 2020 Annual Business Survey, data year 2019.

Navajo Nation Division of Community  
Development and the Indian Health Service  
present:



# Navajo Safe Water Access Project

<http://navajosafewater.org>

## Who:

Council Delegates, Chapter Officials and  
Staff.

## What:

Virtual program to listen  
and ask questions about  
how you can support the  
Navajo Safe Water Project.

### Program will include:

- Training Video, Outreach and Reporting  
Material Review
- Project Services Allocation & Benefits
- Chapter and Service Use Reporting
- Chapter Survey: No/Low Service Usage &  
Recommendations
- Chapter Comments and Feedback  
Discussion

## Where:

**Join via Zoom Meeting or Toll-Free Telephone**  
(No advanced registration required)

## When:

**Date:** 11/16/21  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
to 11:30 AM  
Mountain Time

### ZOOM Meeting:

[https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602345236?  
pwd=akgyVjVQRTd3K29zRU5RU3Fzc2hoZz09](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602345236?pwd=akgyVjVQRTd3K29zRU5RU3Fzc2hoZz09)

**Meeting ID:** 160 234 5236

**Passcode:** 214730

**Toll-Free Telephone:** (833) 568-8864

## Why:

The success of the Navajo Safe Water Access Project depends on you!



# HALLOWEEN

## during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The more people you interact with during the Halloween season (fall festivals, door-to-door trick-or-treating, in person costume contests, large dinner parties, haunted houses, carnivals...etc.), the more you are at risk of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19.

The Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center strongly recommends Navajo residents to avoid large in-person gatherings and door-to-door trick-or-treating to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

### Here's how you can stay safe:

- Avoid gatherings with more than 15 people
- Celebrate Halloween virtually or with family you live with
- Wear a mask and stay at least six feet apart
  - A Halloween mask does not take the place of a face mask
- Discourage handshaking and hugs
- Ensure any "treats" that are shared or received are individually packaged



NAVAJO HEALTH COMMAND OPERATIONS CENTER  
(P) 928.871.7014  
(E) [coronavirus.info@nndoh.org](mailto:coronavirus.info@nndoh.org)  
[www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19](http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19)



# SCHOOLS & HALLOWEEN



The more people you interact with during Halloween (door-to-door trick-or-treating, carnivals/festivals, haunted houses, dances, bake sales... etc.), the more you are at risk of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19

The Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center would like to remind all schools of the following information:

- Gatherings are to be limited to 15 or fewer persons for non-classroom instruction events, including outdoor recreational events
- Wearing a mask in public continues to be mandatory
  - o Halloween masks don't protect against COVID-19
- Social distancing must be maintained
  - o Limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other
- Prepackaged/individually packaged (to-go) "treats" can be distributed



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!



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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