

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

JANUARY 2022

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Did You Know...

Groundhogs and prairie dogs are both members of the same family. They are similar in coloration and body shape, though the groundhog is much bigger. Prairie dogs and groundhogs both live in burrows, but prairie dogs will connect their burrows to huge colonies while groundhogs prefer to live on their own. Groundhogs are found all over North America and combat the cold by hibernating whereas prairie dogs prefer more temperate flatlands. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3qiSVIh>

Events:

January: Yasnił'ees - "Melting Snow"

January 1: New Year's Day

January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February: Atsábiyáázh - "Baby Eagles"

February 2: Groundhog Day

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 21: President's Day

Pueblo Pintado Food and PPE Distribution Event



DCD Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman and Latasha James, Senior Planner, participated in the Pueblo Pintado Food and PPE Distribution event on Thursday, January 20. The event was coordinated by New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, New Mexico Indian Affairs Secretary Lynn Trujillo, OPVP, DCD, the Community Pantry (Santa Fe, NM), Office of Miss Navajo Nation, Council Delegate Mark Freeland and LDA Ben Woody, Pueblo Pintado Chapter President Erlene Henderson and many other organizers who came together to provide food and PPE equipment for over 80 families.



January 2022

Heavy Equipment Updates

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

January Delivery

January 7 - Tseii Ahi - Water Truck

January 11 - Smith Lake - Trailer

January 20 - Thoreau - Trailer



*Thanks to all for working
together!*

Native Americans feel overlooked in voting rights push



Elsie Werito, 84, a member of the To'hajiilee Chapter of the Navajo Nation, waits to cast her ballot in To'hajiilee, New Mexico. Photo: Rick Scibelli/Getty Images

Native American voters face heightened discrimination at the ballot box like Black Americans and Latino voters, but they're often left out of the conversation about election reform despite their ability to swing crucial races.

Why it matters: Voting rights is quickly becoming a litmus test for Democratic candidates to succeed nationwide, and a top priority for the Biden administration. Some Democrats are looking to carve out specific legislation helping to preserve Indigenous voters' access.

- The targeted approach comes as efforts to pass comprehensive election reform founder in Congress.

Driving the news: Sen. Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) has been working on a bill that would ensure Native Americans, Alaska Natives and voters living on tribal lands can easily register and cast their vote.

- Luján succeeded in attaching the Native American Voting Rights Act (NAVRA) to the more comprehensive Freedom to Vote: John Lewis Act that all 50 Senate Democrats voted to support this month.
- The legislation died after Democrats failed to bypass the 60-vote filibuster threshold for passing major legislation.

Details: If enacted, NAVRA would allow Tribes to specify the number and locations of requested voter registration sites, drop boxes and polling locations on Tribal lands, and authorize Tribal ID cards for voting purposes.

- It also would also help establish state-level Native American voting task forces by authorizing \$10 million to the Native American Voting Rights Task Force grant program.

What they're saying: "We know the disenfranchisement of

Black and Brown voters at the ballot box is more widely known — it's being talked about, it's being debated across America," Luján told Axios in an interview.

- "What had not been taking place was including Native Americans, and the challenges that we see across the country that Native American voters are facing every day."

By the numbers: Over 1 million Native American and Alaska Native voters are not registered to vote.

- 34% of Native Americans are not registered — as compared to 26.5% of white Americans, according to data from the National Congress of American Indians.
- The voter participation rate of American Indians and Alaska Natives is among the lowest of any ethnic group in the country, according to available data.
- The turnout rate among Native American voters is up to 10 percentage points lower than the rate of other racial and ethnic groups.

Don't forget: Native Americans have been credited with helping Democrats win close races in recent years.

- Joe Biden won Arizona in 2020 by 0.3%, after Navajo voters went to the polls in record numbers.
- Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) have credited Native American voters with helping them win in their tight re-election efforts.

The backdrop: A number of states with GOP-controlled legislatures have recently passed bills that critics argue impose new restrictions on Indigenous voters.

- Arizona and Montana have passed new laws barring ballot collection important to Native American voters living in isolated regions, since they lack reliable mail service.
- Last year, Arizona also passed legislation limiting where in-person ballots can be cast, despite confusion among many rural Navajo Nation residents whose precincts are a two-hour drive from their homes.

Some GOP proposals seek to impose new address requirements despite many Native Americans lacking addresses.

- Only about 18% of Native American voters in Arizona, outside of the state's two largest counties, have traditional addresses, Patty Ferguson-Bohnee, director of the Indian Legal Clinic at Arizona State, told Axios.

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

Bulletin Board

President Nez and Vice President Lizer welcome latest drone technology capable of delivering medical supplies to Navajo residents



MissionGo founder Scott Plank successfully simulated four deliveries containing various food, medical, and emergency items using the unmanned MG Velos 100 aircraft. Vice President Lizer has worked closely with the companies to help bring more attention and resources for the initiative.

"It is truly an honor to be part of this historic day where we see the bridging of government thinking and the entrepreneurial world to serve our great Navajo People. Working with world renowned corporate minds like Mark Atlan and Scott Plank always pushes me to ask how we can find parallel opportunities to maximize our land, resources, and manpower. I am grateful to serve as the connection between these individuals and hope we can continue to think outside the box as we overcome the Nation's challenges," said Vice President Lizer.

With a maximum carrying load of 14 pounds, each of the four deliveries contained packages assembled by first responders, Navajo Technical University's culinary arts program, pharmacists, and veterinarians based on their expertise and past experiences. Some of the notable items that could be delivered to remote areas included insulin kits, prepackaged meals, large animal medicine, emergency communication devices, and antivenom.

This allows a small team of operators to manage each drone, which President Nez anticipates will save valuable time and resources in emergency situations on the Navajo Nation.

"We are now over 402,000 strong as the Navajo people, and we have plenty of professionals and young people who know how to use this technology to help our people. I see this opportunity as one of many ways to bring our bright, young minds home to serve their people using disciplines from engineering to emergency medical care," said President Nez. "Just yesterday, it

took a whole team of us to assist one family, who had been stranded in a rural area, with food and pulling them out of the mud. You can imagine how many more of our people find themselves in the same boat that this technology will help."

With a 20-plus mile flight radius and the ability to capture live video and solar-powered technology, each drone follows automated flight paths in varying weather conditions. Plank stated that the drones are currently being used in Southern California to inspect rural utility lines and assess electrical infrastructure damage.

President Nez anticipates being able to use the technology to improve rural addressing, geological surveying, and perhaps one day delivering voting ballots to increase access to voting. Drones were used this past summer to assess flooding damage caused by monsoon rainfall in the Birdsprings community, and a wildfire in Shiprock, N.M. With increased carrying capacity, drones may also be used to deliver food, water, fire wood, and other essential items to families when roads are washed out and communities become inaccessible by vehicles.

"I've had the privilege of working with the Nez-Lizer administration for about 15 months now, and I believe they have a vision far beyond our time which is why we are here today," added Atlan.

Also joining the Mission Go flight team for observation was Navajo Technical University Senior and Industrial Engineering Major, Marcie Vandever. Both Atlan and Plank said they intend to train Navajo individuals, such as Vandever, to operate drone technology teams in the future. More information is available at: <https://zappcare.com>.

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

WINDOW ROCK Ariz. – On Saturday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala joined officials with ZappCare, a Native American-owned innovations and technology company and MissionGo, for the first-ever launching of the "Healing Eagle Feather" drone at the Navajo Veterans Memorial Park, to demonstrate how the latest drone technology can be used to deliver medical supplies and other essential items to Navajo Nation residents, including those who reside in the most remote areas.

During the demonstration, ZappCare CEO Mark Atlan and

Navajo Nation leaders commend "Kayenta I" solar facility extension and new agreement for the construction of the "Cameron Solar" facility



Navajo people," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Construction of the Kayenta I solar facility, located in the community of Kayenta, Ariz. on the Navajo Nation, began in 2016 and was eventually expanded with the completion of the Kayenta II solar facility in 2019. Combined, the facility currently produces 55-megawatts of emission-free energy to power approximately 36,000 homes on the Navajo Nation.

"Together, we have the power to make changes that reflect the needs of our Navajo people. Right now, our people need jobs, and more revenue to help meet direct services and to build local economies to transform and sustain our communities in the long-term. This partnership will help in this effort and lead to more project development and innovation. We truly appreciate the support and partnership of SRP and NTUA," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

In April 2021, President Nez and Vice President Lizer were joined by Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr., as they finalized a lease agreement for the construction of the new 200-megawatt "Cameron Solar" generation plant, which will be located in the community of Cameron, Ariz. on the Navajo Nation.

"This collaboration with the Navajo Nation on the Kayenta Solar generation facility supports the Navajo community's transition from a coal-based economy and has provided a valuable resource to SRP's growing renewable energy portfolio," said Mike Hummel, SRP General Manager and CEO. "In addition, we are extremely honored to work alongside NTUA to continue to work together on future projects including Cameron Solar."

The Cameron Solar project supports the Nez-Lizer Administration's focus on renewable energy development and the Navajo Nation's transition away from coal-dependency. The project will generate over \$11 million through the land lease as well as an additional \$32 million in transmission operations over

the next 25 years. The project is also expected to generate approximately \$15 million in tax revenues associated with solar and infrastructure, as well as 300- 400 job opportunities for Navajo people during construction.

"The NTUA renewable energy development goal is multifaceted which includes helping to generate a new Navajo Nation economy, creating new jobs, keeping electric and utility rates stable, and using excess proceeds to connect homes to the electric grid," said NTUA General Manager Walter Haase. "NTUA has pledged to work hard to ensure that renewable energy production on the Nation will 100% benefit the Navajo Nation and its people. These agreements are an example of that promise."

24th Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee Chair Rickie Nez and Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown were also in attendance and spoke about meeting the infrastructure needs of Navajo families and elders who have been living without electricity and other necessities for many years. Cameron Chapter President Charlie Smith, and NTUA Board members were also in attendance to offer their support for the signing of the agreements.

Resources and Development Committee Vice Chair Thomas Walker, Jr., who represents the community of Cameron as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, was unable to attend the signing ceremony but he offered his support stating, "It is very pleasing to witness our Navajo Nation and the Cameron Chapter reach a great milestone for renewable energy development. Our future generations will be the beneficiaries for the new opportunities that are to come. I am proud that Cameron and the Navajo Nation continue to progress forward with green energy, along with NTUA and SRP."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3raHN6Q>

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council joined NTUA General Manager Walter Haase and SRP General Manager and CEO Mike Hummel in Phoenix, Ariz. on Thursday, to finalize a historic agreement that extends the operation of the existing Kayenta I solar facility through March 2038 and to allow for a new 200-megawatt solar facility known as "Cameron Solar" to be constructed by 2023 on the Navajo Nation.

"At the start of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we established a new vision for energy development for the Navajo Nation with the signing of the Hayookkaal proclamation, which prioritizes renewable energy initiatives and supports the transition from coal to other resources to help build our economy and make our Nation a key stakeholder in renewable energy across the country. With the partnership of SRP and NTUA, we are making a statement and taking another big step forward to building our Nation, this is about Nation building, and the future of our

Bulletin Board

OOC begins printing first batches of CARES Act Hardship Assistance checks for Navajo elders

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller (OOC) continues to work through the challenges of processing over 16,000 changes of address requests, limited personnel due to the spread of COVID-19, and other setbacks and has begun printing and mailing the first batches of Hardship Assistance checks for Navajo elders.

OOC processed the first batch of 2,500 checks on Monday, and continues to print 5,000 checks daily until the 48,000 plus checks are completed and mailed. OOC expects to complete printing and mailing of all 48,000 checks by Feb. 4, 2022. The delivery of the checks to recipients will vary depending on postal services. Each elderly recipient will receive approximately \$342.

The Office of the President and Vice President is also temporarily re-assigning staff members from the Executive Branch to assist with data entry, mailing, and other tasks to expedite the Hardship Assistance process. Staff will be rotated to complete tasks daily and to increase production during evenings and weekends.

"We are doing our best to work through the challenges and facilitate this process as efficiently as possible. We ask the Navajo people to please be patient and understand that COVID-19 is

impacting our staff. Checks for elders are being printed and we will get them out as quickly as possible. We are also in contact with financial entities to determine how we can speed up the checking printing process," said Navajo Nation Controller Elizabeth Begay.

Once all 48,000 CARES Act Hardship Assistance checks for elders are processed and mailed, the Office of the Controller will focus on issuing the ARPA Hardship Assistance checks in mid-February, which will provide \$2,000 for each enrolled adult and \$600 per minor.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer approved the reallocation of \$16 million in CARES Act funds for Hardship Assistance for enrolled members of the Navajo Nation who are 60 years old and over, and who previously demonstrated need for assistance to mitigate the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information regarding hardship Assistance, a Frequently Asked Questions document is available at: <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/News-Media/Latest-News>. Additional information and forms are also

available online at <https://www.nnooc.org> and on the ARPA website at www.navajonationarpa.org.

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



Navajo Nation applauds Appointment of Arizona State Senator Theresa Hatathlie



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The 24th Navajo Nation Council applauds the appointment of Theresa Hatathlie as Arizona State Senator for Legislative District 7 (LD7) by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed. By state election procedures, she will be formally sworn into public office on Monday, Jan. 10.

Former Senator Jamescita Peshlakai (D-LD7) resigned from her position in late December to take a position with the United States Department of Interior. Three candidates were recommended by Coconino County that included community leader Theresa Hatathlie-Delmar, chapter leader Gwen Ward, and Navajo Nation Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman.

"Our incoming Senator Theresa Hatathlie is a respected public servant who has stood behind our college students and held school districts responsible for the education of our young people.

She is the Vice President of the Diné College Board of Regents and has served in this leadership position over nine years. We applaud the Coconino County Board of Supervisors for their leadership in making sure a Diné leader was appointed to this position. Theresa Hatathlie is a proven community advocate who continues to serve as a local coordinator helping hundreds of Navajo families that need direct COVID-19 relief. Through their work, non-profit organizations support our hospitals, first responders, police departments, and tribal health care facilities," said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

Theresa Hatathlie is from Coal Mine Mesa, Ariz., and is the Logistics Coordinator for the Navajo and Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund - which has raised millions over the last two years for Indigenous families. She previously served as the Human Resources Director for the Tuba City Unified School District and holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Northern Arizona University.

"This selection of Theresa Hatathlie as our new Arizona Senator is good news for our people.

Senator Jamescita Peshlakai has been an outstanding advocate for our infrastructure projects during this pandemic and she got hard work done. She is qualified, capable, and prepared to bring decades of her experience to the Arizona State Capitol. It is our belief she will work

hard and push forward the priorities that Senator Peshlakai carried during this pandemic," said Council Delegate Thomas Walker (Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Coalmine Canyon, Cameron).

The remainder of the term for former Senator Jamescita Peshlakai will be served by incoming Senator Theresa Hatathlie until January 2022. Arizona Legislative District 7 spans across Apache, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Mohave, Navajo, and Pinal Counties.

"Thank you for your gift of time, kindness, and energetic assistance for my nomination and selection as a new Arizona State Senator. This phenomenal success would not be possible without the overwhelming support of my community and family. I am humbled and give thanks to the Holy People, my forefathers, and my family, for I am the product of their prayers, teachings, and strength. I hereby devote the best of my abilities to work to resolve the challenges facing our people. Thank you Senator Jamescita Peshlakai for your exemplary leadership, breaking that glass ceiling, and for creating a space for Diné women leaders in the Arizona Legislature," added incoming Senator Theresa Hatathlie.

The Arizona Legislative Session begins in Phoenix, Ariz. on Monday. The White Mountain Apache, San Carlos Apache, Hualapai, Havasupai, Kaibab Paiute, San Juan Southern Paiute, Zuni Pueblo, Hopi, and the Navajo Navajo are within the district legislative boundaries.

READ MORE AT: https://www.navajonationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/AZ_Sen_Hatathlie_2022.01.07.pdf

Bulletin Board

Arizona State University students aim to help youth, boost Navajo economy



Joe Giddens, Navajo-Hopi Observer

TUBA CITY, Ariz. – As a way to provide a source of ecotourism along with outdoor activities for those living on the Navajo Nation, students at Arizona State University are developing a series of mountain biking trails along with 'pump tracks' on the reservation.

The project has received support from ASU's Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, according to organizers.

The hope is to have mountain bike trails reach as far north as Kayenta. So far, projects have included work in Shonto, Arizona and most recently in Tuba City, where ASU students have partnered with the Tuba City School District to build a pump track for youth.

"Our plans include building two large tracks and additional pump tracks," said Peter Bugala a senior in computer science at ASU and co-founder of The Navajo Mountain Bike Initiative. "As well as utilizing a hardening agent for durability of the soil, which is being developed by Edward Kavazanjian, an ASU Regents Professor and the Ira A. Fulton Chair of geotechnical engineering at the ASU School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment."

In addition to the track, the group was recently awarded 30 bikes from REI to benefit Navajo youth. The bikes will be used in Tuba City at the new track.

"I have not seen an over amount of bikes in Tuba City,"

said Tuba City School District Superintendent Terry Maurer. "We have bike racks out front where students could park their personal bikes and I don't see bikes there. I think if we get this started we could start seeing an increased participation in students riding their bikes to school, but I've not seen it yet, and that's why I'm excited about getting the project back on track."

Pump tracks are designed to increase bike handling skills without the need for peddling. Instead users use a pumping motion of the arms, shoulders and knees on the downhill side to build up force to move the bike along, according to Arizona State University's Engineering Projects In Community Service (EPICS) professional mentor Gregory Rodzenko.

Tracks are made of dirt and have the appearance of small BMX tracks.

According to Maurer, Tuba City schools are looking at ways bikes can fit into physical education classes once the pump track is complete. Maurer envisions a two week lesson on bike safety and usage with students using the track at their own pace.

"I would like to see it go all the way down to our kindergarteners," he said. "We would have to definitely get some modified bikes because the bikes that are coming in are more for that third through fifth grader. Then with the junior high being so close as well that might be a potential for sixth through eighth graders."

For high schoolers, Bugala said he would eventually like to start a racing team for competitions, if funding becomes available.

Both groups agree the bikes will be beneficial to students' academic and physical development.

"Most students, after a small amount of training, can repair their own tires and do general maintenance," Maurer said. "There's that idea that you can feel self-fulfilled in that you can take care of your own equipment."

The track is anticipated to open in April. It will be located between the elementary and middle school in Tuba City.

According to Rodzenko, the anticipated completion of the track comes after a near two-year hiatus of the project because of COVID-19.

Crews are expected to be in Tuba City in late March to assess the track's condition and to finalize a plan, as well as provide a document to the school for the track's operation and maintenance.

Maurer stated that once this track is complete he will be looking at space for another track for more skilled riders.

Stimulating the Navajo Nation economy

According to Bugala, the inspiration for EPIC's "Navajo Mountain Bike Initiative" started with the closure of Peabody Energy's Kayenta Coal Mine. During that time, Bugala and his colleague Alex Turner, an ASU civil engineering student, saw an opportunity to increase public health and economic development on the Navajo Nation.

In order to do this, they hope to increase mountain biking opportunities on the Navajo Nation.

EPICS sees several parallels between the geography in Tuba City and one of the country's most popular mountain biking destinations – Moab Utah. They hope to have the Navajo Nation be able to tap into that outdoor recreation market, they said.

In the future, EPICS envisions pay-to-ride bike trails 8-12 miles in length for outdoor enthusiasts.

The group looking at land close to Navajo National Monument.

About EPICS

Engineering Projects In Community Service (EPICS) is a community outreach program for all different disciplines of engineering. Their intention is to help students work on real world problems.

The program was founded in 1995 at Purdue University and has since grown to several different universities, according to Purdue's website.

More information about the project is available at <https://ewb.engineering.asu.edu/project/mountain-bike>.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2022/jan/25/arizona-state-university-students-aim-help-youth-b/>

Bulletin Board

ASC Holds Chapter Trainings on Conducting Remote Meetings during the COVID Emergency

ASC held five online trainings for chapters over a period of three days from January 20 - 23, 2022. The main topics included updates on the reduced quorum requirements during the COVID emergency by Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Department Manager; Fraud prevention, detection and controls, by the Office of the Auditor General; COVID safety guidance for chapter meetings by ASC staff; and how to use Google Meet to set up and hold teleconference meetings by Sylvia Jordan, Principal Information Systems Technician, DCD.

The supporting documents provided during the training can be found on the DCD website at the following links:

Training presentation and agenda

<https://www.nndcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Conducting-Public-Teleconference-Chapter-Meetings-WEBINAR-1.pdf>

Memo from DOJ on guidance for reduced quorum

https://www.nndcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-01-20_RTB_Memo_CJA-01-22.pdf

Fraud prevention presentation from Office of the Controller

<https://www.nndcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Fraud-Prevention-for-Chapters-FINAL.pdf>

COVID safety refresher presentation

<https://www.nndcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/COVID-Safety-Refresher.pdf>

Presentation on using Google Meet for holding remote meetings by Sylvia Jordan

<https://www.nndcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Fraud-Prevention-for-Chapters-FINAL.pdf>

CONDUCTING PUBLIC TELECONFERENCE CHAPTER MEETINGS

Virtual Webinar Sessions

January 20 - 22, 2022

Administrative Services Centers (ASC)
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ARPA Hardship and CIB Technical Assistance Drives to be held in surrounding urban areas

WINDOW ROCK Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller and Office of Vital Records & Identification are pleased to announce a series of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Hardship and CIB Technical Assistance Drives in nearby cities, to provide help with completing and submitting applications for ARPA Hardship Assistance and to apply for a Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB). If an individual previously received the Hardship Assistance, they do not have to re-apply to receive the ARPA Hardship Assistance. COVID-19 protocols will be in place and all attendees are required to wear a face mask at all times.

"Many of our Navajo citizens reside in metropolitan areas, and many do not have the resources or transportation to obtain technical assistance for the ARPA Hardship Assistance or tribal enrollment process. Personnel with the Office of the Controller and Vital Records continue to work long hours to process a high volume of documents as quickly as possible and to provide the necessary assistance. We anticipate a large number of people so please be patient and expect some waiting time. We must also remember that we are in the midst of a COVID-19 surge, so please wear two masks at all times, practice social distancing, and be very cautious," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

The Navajo Nation ARPA Hardship and CIB Technical Assistance Drives are scheduled at the following locations:

- February 3, 2022 at 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and February 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Albuquerque Indian Center (105 Texas St. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108)

- February 17 to 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Indian Center (4520 N Central Ave. #250, Phoenix, AZ 85012)

- March 3 to 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tucson Indian Center (160 N Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701)

- April 14 to 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake (120 W 1300 S St., Salt Lake City, UT 84115)

April 28 to 29, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Denver Indian Center Inc. (4407 Morrison Rd., Denver, CO 80219)

On Jan. 4, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CD-62-21 into law, approving \$557 million for the ARPA Hardship Assistance to provide direct financial relief for the Navajo people to help mitigate the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will provide \$2,000 for adults, who are 18 years and older on or before January 4, 2022 and \$600 for minors who are enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.

On Jan. 10, the Office of the Controller began accepting new applications for the ARPA Hardship Assistance Program for enrolled members of the Navajo Nation, who did not previously receive Hardship Assistance. New applicants must complete/sign the ARPA Hardship Program application and submit no later than December 30, 2022.

Personnel at the sites will provide guidance on any ARPA Hardship and CIB inquiries, including change of address forms, printing and copying services, and individual concerns related to the application process and tribal enrollment. The technical assistance drives will not include any type of check distributions. In addition, applicants seeking to enroll with the Navajo Nation, obtain a copy of their CIB, or update their tribal enrollment information will be required to provide

current and original records of Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage Licenses, Divorce Decrees, or other court-ordered documents. The Navajo Office of Vital Records will not be able to provide same-day CIB's due to additional necessary verification to be conducted by agency offices.

The technical assistance drives will adhere to all COVID-19 safety protocols, such as wearing a facemask, temperature screening, and social distancing. In addition, attendees are highly encouraged to be fully vaccinated.

The Office of the Controller continues to process over 16,000 change of address forms that have been received in January. The Office of the Controller has begun issuing CARES Act Hardship Assistance relief checks for the 48,000 elderly recipients in the amount of \$342 each.

The ARPA Hardship Application form is available on the Office of the Controller website at <https://www.nnooc.org> and on the ARPA website at <https://www.navajonationarpa.org>. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) sheet is available online at <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/FILES/Latest%20News/FAQs%20Hardship%20Assistance.pdf>.

If you have further questions, please contact the Office of the Controller by e-mail at ARPAHardship@nnooc.org or call (928) 871-6106, (928) 871-6315, (928) 223-3525, (928) 224-8148, (928) 224-8187, (928) 224-8212, (928) 371-9226, (928) 223-3709, or (928) 223-3712. Please contact the Navajo Office of Vital Records & ID at (928) 871-6386 or visit their website at <https://www.novri.navajo-nsn.gov> for more information regarding tribal enrollment.

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

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, NM	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	27,519.84	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
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Indian Wells, AZ	27,519.84	02/07/2022
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Office Specialist (S)	Chinle, AZ	26,726.40	02/07/2022
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tecnospos, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Black Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF

Capital Projects Management Department

Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	69,217.20	OUF
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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



Quote of the Month

SHOW RESPECT
 EVEN TO
 PEOPLE WHO
 DON'T DESERVE
 IT; NOT AS A
 REFLECTION OF
 THEIR
 CHARACTER,
**BUT AS A
 REFLECTION OF
 YOURS.**

DAVE
 WILLIS

Community Land Use Planning on the Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA)—Title 26

The LGA provides opportunities and grants Chapters authority over local issues relating to:

- Conserving natural resources
- Preserving Navajo heritage and culture
- Land Use Planning

Natural Resources to protect:

- Geology/soils and minerals
- Groundwater and surface water
- Grassland, shrubs, trees, etc.
- Wildlife
- Threatened/endangered species
- Air quality

Cultural Resources to protect:

- Anasazi cultural sites
- Historic preservation of sacred sites
- Graves protection/burial sites
- Traditionally sensitive areas
- Culturally significant areas
- Tourist sites/agriculture



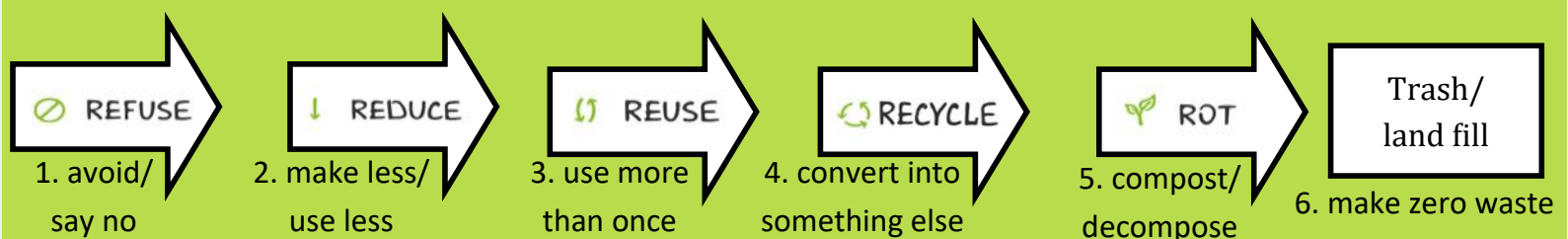
The average American creates about 4.4 pounds of trash per day.

- That is about 1,600 pounds of trash created per person per year!
- According to the 2010 Census, 173,667 people live on the Navajo Nation.
- That is about 764,000 pounds of trash that is created on the Navajo Nation per day!

The Navajo Nation should pursue Solid Waste Management policies and practices that advance the values of environmental protection, materials conservation, and long-term sustainability. It is important to include Solid Waste Management in Community Infrastructure Plan.

The Navajo Nation Solid Waste Act (NNSWA) states:

- Section 201 prohibits the disposal of solid waste “...in a manner that will harm the environment, endanger the public health, safety and welfare, or create a public nuisance.” It is understood this prohibition includes open dumping, open burning, and dumping trash into a waterway. Section 204 explicitly prohibits open dumping. Subchapter 503 defines civil and criminal penalties for violations of designated parts of the NNSWA.



New Mexico 110th Anniversary of Statehood (1912): January 6, 2022

RELEASE NUMBER CB22-SFS.03

JANUARY 06, 2022

From the Guide to 2010 State and Local Census Geography - New Mexico - History:

The United States acquired almost all the area of New Mexico from Mexico in 1848. The United States acquired a small area, comprising the southwestern corner of New Mexico, from Mexico in 1853 as part of the Gadsden Purchase. New Mexico Territory was organized from the acquired area December 13, 1850 and included most of present-day Arizona and New Mexico as well as parts of Colorado and Nevada. The territory was reduced with the organization of Colorado Territory in 1861 and Arizona Territory in 1863 to assume generally the same boundary as the present state.

Census data are available for New Mexico beginning with the 1850 census. The 1850 census population is for the entire New Mexico Territory, including areas not in present-day New Mexico. For an explanation of the revision to the 1860 population of New Mexico, see Richard L. Forstall, Population of States and Counties of the United States: 1790-1990, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1996, page 110.

Data for the legally established state of New Mexico are available beginning with the 1920 census.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/new-mexico.html>



Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday and Day of Service: January 17, 2022

JANUARY 17, 2022

RELEASE NUMBER CB22-SFS.06

From The White House, Briefing Room, Presidential Actions, A Proclamation on Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2022: "On a late summer day in 1963, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stood on the National Mall before hundreds of thousands of demonstrators who had gathered to march for freedom, justice, and equality. On that day, Dr. King shared a dream that has continued to inspire a Nation: To bring justice where there is injustice, freedom where there is oppression, peace where there is violence, and opportunity where there is poverty. Today, people of all backgrounds continue that march – raising their voices to confront abuses of power, challenge hate and discrimination, protect the right to vote, and access quality jobs, health care, housing, and education. On this day, we reflect on the legacy of a man who issued a call to the conscience of our Nation and our world."



READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/martin-luther-king-jr-day.html>

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

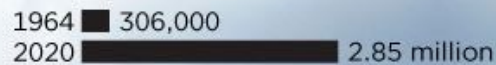
Changes in the Nation's African American Population Since 1964



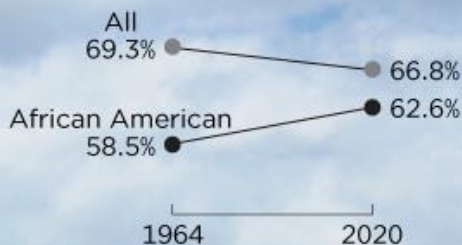
Percentage of African Americans completing high school



Number of African American college students



Percentage of citizen population voting in the United States

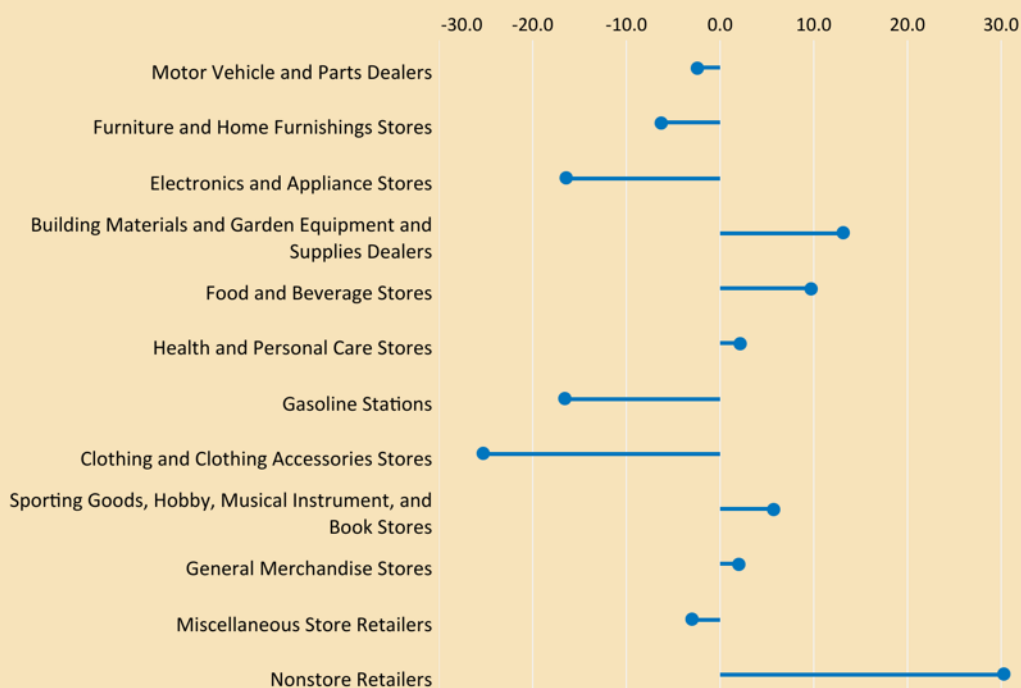


Estimated Sales for U.S. Retailers

Percent Change in Sales From 2019 to 2020



Retail Trade



Note: Additional information on confidentiality protection, quality suppressions, sampling error, sampling design, and definitions can be found at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/arts/technical-documentation/methodology.html.

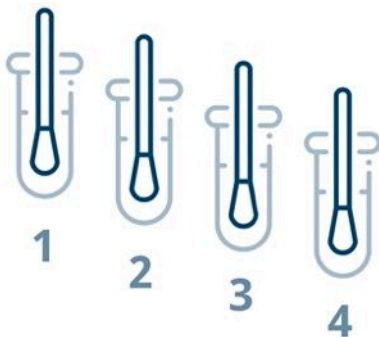
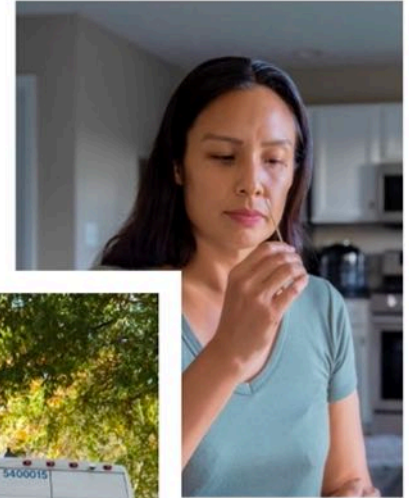
Get free at-home COVID-19 tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.

Order Free At-Home Tests

If you need a COVID-19 test now, please see [other testing resources](#) for free testing locations in your area.



ABOUT THE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

The tests available for order:

- Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR
- Can be taken anywhere
- Give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required)
- Work whether or not you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Work whether or not you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Are also referred to as self-tests or over-the-counter (OTC) tests

Give Your COVID-19 Vaccination Protection a Boost

Booster shots are now available for everyone 12+ and vaccinated

COVID-19 vaccines continue to work very well at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death. A booster shot is an extra dose that helps keep up your protection.

When to get your booster

Stay safer this winter. Get a booster as soon as you're eligible.

- **Pfizer-BioNTech**
(5 months after your 2nd dose)
- **Moderna**
(5 months after your 2nd dose)
- **Johnson & Johnson's Janssen**
(2 months after your single dose)

Find free vaccines near you

- Visit vaccines.gov
- Text your ZIP code to 438829
- Call 1-800-232-0233
- Scan the QR code



COVID-19 Safe Practices: Guidelines for Holiday Gatherings



This guidance is intended for holiday gatherings hosted on the Navajo Nation. The upcoming holidays are Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Holiday gatherings refer to gatherings to celebrate the upcoming holidays among family, businesses, and schools. Religious events associated with any of these holidays need to follow the *COVID-19 Safe Practices: Navajo Nation Reopening Guidelines for Religious Organizations/Places of Worship*. Large gatherings and parties are high risk activities during the holiday season.

General Requirements

- Limited in-person indoor/outdoor and drive-in gatherings are allowed.
- Door-to-door trick-or-treating is not allowed.
- Businesses must adhere to maximum occupancy limits per the current Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency Orders and Navajo Nation Executive Orders.
- Gathering (outdoor, places worship, schools, household) limits must follow the current Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency Orders and Navajo Nation Executive Orders.
- Wear masks in public, as they reduce the risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19 (per Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-15).
- Holiday gathering host are to follow Center for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 guidelines such as cleaning and disinfecting. (Access at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html>)
- Report all potential COVID-19 cases to local health care facility, and to the HCOC COVID-19 Report Exposure Portal. For questions about reporting cases, call the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

Who Can Attend?

Clearly communicate steps to be taken before, during, and after the gathering to ensure that family members, participants, staff, volunteers, and attendees are aware of safety protocols.

It is strongly recommended that those who attend are:

- fully or partially vaccinated (if eligible), or
 - o Take extra precautions if the gathering includes unvaccinated children.
- not currently required to isolate or quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure or positive test result, and
- not currently sick and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Those who recently tested for COVID-19 and are still waiting on results should not attend until those results are final and “negative.”

COVID-19 Safe Practices: Guidelines for Holiday Gatherings

Continued...COVID-19 Safe Practices: Guidelines for Holiday Gatherings

Following Basic COVID-19 Safe Practices

- Practice the three W's
 - o Wear a Mask: Mask wearing is mandatory except when eating and drinking. Disposable masks can be made available for attendees.
 - o Wash Hands: Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations must be provided, convenient, and accessible to staff, volunteers, and attendees.
 - o Watch Your Distance: Keep 6 feet away from others who do not live with you. Trunk-or-Treat events must ensure physical distancing.
- Stay home or don't host a holiday gathering when sick or having symptoms of COVID-19.
- Limit unnecessary travel, especially if you are unvaccinated.
- Protect those not yet eligible for vaccination such as young children by getting yourself and other eligible people around them vaccinated.
- It is also strongly recommended families celebrate only with those in their household.

Navajo Nation outbreaks related to family and other gatherings have resulted from individuals not wearing masks and being unvaccinated.

Signage

- Post signage prohibiting anyone who is sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms from entering the space.
- Post signage to practice physical distancing and washing hands or use sanitizer often.
- Post signage on properly wearing a mask.

Screening

- Participants and attendees: conduct screening of COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival.
- If possible, send a reminder to participants prior to the event to stay home if sick.

Physical Distancing

- Encourage safe greeting practices to maintain physical distancing.
 - o Participants should avoid direct contact such as handshakes and hugs with others who are not from their household.
- Restrict common areas where people are likely to congregate and interact, especially if there is poor ventilation.

Food, Drinks, or Treats

- Eat meals and snacks outdoors or in well ventilated spaces while maintaining physical distancing.
- Use single-use disposable plates, cups, utensils, and prepackaged condiments.
- Limit crowding where the food is served.
- To-Go meals and treats may be provided to guests.
- Must have a current sanitation permit in food service establishments for drive thru meals-to-go.
- Class parties are not allowed.

January 2022



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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