

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

APRIL 2022

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Did You Know...

Window Rock sits at approximately the same latitude north of the equator as Asheville, North Carolina; Tangier, Morocco; the island of Malta; Tehran, Iran; Kabul, Afghanistan; XinXiang, China; Ulsan, South Korea and Tokyo, Japan.

Events:

April: T'ááchil - "Growth of Early Plant Life"

April 1: April Fool's Day
April 17: Easter Sunday
April 22: Earth Day
April 25: World Penguin Day
April 28: Administrative Professional Day

May: T'áátsoh - "Growth of Late Plant Life"

May 4: Star Wars Day
May 13: Navajo Nation Police Officers Day
May 8: Mother's Day
May 30: Memorial Day

Yéégo Teesto! Chapter Hard At Work On Several Projects



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Allen Benally, Maintenance Technician; Helen Yazzie, Administrative Assistant; Marquez Vandever, Mail clerk/Office Assistant; Leroy Thomas, Chapter Vice President; and Clara Tsosie, Chapter Manager

On Wednesday, April 27, Teesto Chapter received a new water truck, a 2022 Valew Welding & Fabrication T270 that can hold 2,000 gallons of water. According to Teesto Chapter Manager, Clara Tsosie, Teesto's water truck was requested through Sihasin SDS Funds with Legislation CJA-01-21 Chapter Heavy Equipment Plan/SDS. Tsosie added, "The water truck is to be utilized for Teesto community members that have cistern systems and homes that need water for livelihood purposes. The truck is able to service two homes at one time because all cistern systems that are installed by WIHCC/OEH have a capacity of 1,000 gallons. This is a savings of fuel for the Chapter. The vendor of the vehicle is RDO Equipment Company from Flagstaff, Arizona and the Sales Representative was Alex Santiago."

Mr. Artie Yazzie, chapter volunteer, noted that the water truck will also be useful for providing water to many of

the community gardens that have been established and also to the livestock owners and for people's own personal hygiene and consumption.

On the day of the water truck delivery, the chapter was also coordinating a food distribution drive along with St. Mary's Food Bank delivering supplies from Flagstaff, AZ. The volunteers unloaded the boxes of food including potatoes, cherry tomatoes, bread and jugs of drinking water. The chapter also included some jugs of disinfectant and cleaning solution.

The Chapter is also in the midst of construction for a new Chapter building. The construction on the new Teesto Community Center building is well underway. The old chapter house burned down in an act of arson in September 2014. The chapter has worked hard since then to come to this point where the new construction is a reality. Construction

began on September 21, 2021. The new chapter building is expected to be completed in late fall of 2022. The contractor for the new Teesto Community Center is Arviso Construction Company. Tsosie explained, "The Chapter received funds from Navajo Nation Supplemental Funding - Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance, Sihasin Funds, Capital Project Management Department Special Revenue Funds and

Navajo County. The Chapter is still looking for funds to complete the building as designed by Dyron Murphy Architects.

The Project Managers are Andy Thomas and Marcus Murphy from Navajo Nation Capital Project Management Department."

Keep up the great work Teesto Chapter!



April 2022

Heavy Equipment Updates

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

April Delivery

April 27th - To'hajiilee - Back Hoe

April 27th - Teesto - Water Truck

April 27th - Dilkon - Water Truck



*Thank you
project
team!*



Community Land Use Plan Work Sessions

April 25th, 2022, Latasha James, Senior Planner for the DCD, and Edgerton Gene, SPPS, ASC department conducted a Community Land Use Planning orientation for the CLUPC members at Round Rock Chapter. The orientation covered topics on Title 26 – Community-Based Land Use Planning/Zoning requirements and land use planning matters.



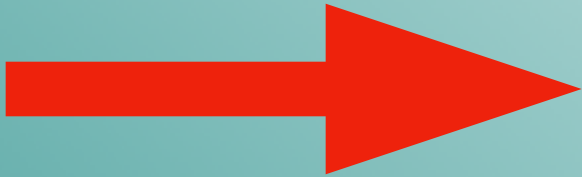
April 26, 2022, the ASC's SPPS staff, Patricia Begay and Eunice Begay invited DCD's Senior Planner, Ms. James to provide Community Land Use Planning training to Delegate Vince James' five Navajo chapters at Twin Arrows Resort and Casino. The chapters are Ganado, Kindahlichii', Steamboat, Jeddito, and Oaksprings.



April 2022

TECH NEWS

The following misleading invoice was sent to several chapters by a company that the Navajo Nation does not do business with. BE AWARE that it is an offer for services only. If you read the print in the middle of the invoice - it states it is not a bill.



Do not pay for the website listing service.

Please take a look at the email below also. This email is also a scam. Four elements to tell if someone is targeting you -

1. Email is wrong address - it is a general gmail account.
2. They are asking you to purchase gift cards.
3. They are not specific about what stores and want a picture of the pin codes for the gift cards.
4. Sent from my mobile device is not generated by any known cell phone company.

Please be cautious about retrieving email from your spam folder and emails from outside sources - these are very targeted scams toward the chapters and specific individuals. They have some knowledge of money and are targeting individuals.

At any time if you have questions please email us: syl@navajochapters.org or nnez@nndcd.org

 Date 3/18/2022
Website www.navajochapters.org
Number 242-1848
Return By 4/27/2022

WEBSITE LISTING SERVICE

DOMAIN NAME: WWW.TECOM.NAVAJOCHAPTERS.ORG

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES: ANNUAL WEBSITE DOMAIN LISTING FROM MAY 1, 2022 THRU APRIL 30, 2023 \$288.00

TOTAL FOR ANNUAL LISTING: \$288.00


SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDES: Annual Website Domain Listing on internet directory
Complete details located online at www.domainlistings.directory

This website listing offer is provided to leading websites throughout the United States to enhance their Website exposure and expose them to new customers through our directory. We are not a Domain Registrar and we do not Register or Renew Domain Names. The listing period is for 12 consecutive months and must be renewed annually if you wish to maintain your Domain listing and keep it active on our online website directory. THIS IS NOT A BILL. THIS IS A SOLICITATION. YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO PAY THE AMOUNT STATED ABOVE UNLESS YOU ACCEPT THIS OFFER.

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SCAM

 Dr. Pearl Yellowman <mayorad2020@gmail.com> Jan 12, 2021, 9:05 AM ☆ ↩ ⋮

to

OK. I need your help with a purchase. I'm looking to surprise some of the staff with Google Play Gift cards but I want you to keep it on the low pending till when they get it, You will be reimbursed back immediately when the surprise is out. So therefore, I need you to purchase 5 pieces of Google Play Gift cards in \$200 face value amounting to \$1000... It's alright if you can purchase the gift cards from any Stores around like CVS, Best buy or Walgreen. I need you to help get the physical gift cards, scratch the back out to reveal the pin then attach the pictures showing the pin to this message and email them back to me. Is that clear?

How soon can this be done today?

Thanks.
Dr. Pearl Yellowman.

Sent from my Mobile Device

SCAM

Bulletin Board

This University of Utah program is bringing homes to the Navajo Nation

By Logan Stefanich, [KSL.com](https://www.ksl.com) | Posted - April 6, 2022 at 6:19 a.m.

BLUFF, San Juan County — Atsushi Yamamoto and his wife, Hiroko Yamamoto, like to take a hands-on approach as architects. They also believe in sharing their experience with future generations.

These convictions landed them instructor roles with DesignBuildUTAH, a program at the University of Utah College of Architecture and Planning that allows graduate students to immerse themselves in hands-on opportunities to design and build full-scale works of architecture in collaboration with residents of the Native American communities of San Juan County.

"We focus on eco-friendly and affordable homes in a location with many challenges," said Atsushi Yamamoto, the program's instructor.

Last December, six students from the College of Architecture and Planning completed the Horseshoe Project, an 864-square-foot expandable home with a greenhouse, a wood-burning stove, an outdoor fire pit, and a water catchment to collect rainwater.

"The Horseshoe Project was really designed with a sense of the client in mind, trying to respond to some of those specific desires, not only of the client but of the Navajo culture in regard to that," said Keith Moore... READ MORE: <https://www.ksl.com/article/50382079/this-university-of-utah-program-is-bringing-homes-to-the-navajo-nation>



Reviving Navajo identity, one sheep at a time



By Henry Gass Staff writer, The Christian Science Monitor.com

Irene Bennalley steps out into the fierce afternoon sunlight wearing jeans and a maroon sweater, her long gray hair knotted in a braid.

Brandishing a long white stick as her crook, she picks her way across her parched desert farm toward the sheep pen. Answering their bleats with firm instructions in Navajo, she shepherds them out onto the dry, dusty range.

She doesn't know exactly how many Navajo-Churro sheep she has, but she ballpark it at around 100 head. It's bad luck to keep exact counts of your livestock, her father taught her. Don't boast about your animals, he would say, or they'll start dropping.

Out here, ranchers like Ms. Bennalley can't afford to lose animals. The winters are cold and hard, and the summers are hot and relentless. Water is scarce and feed is expensive. It's the main reason she has come to love the breed, known colloquially as churros, that she'd grown up only hearing about in stories. The Navajo, who refer to themselves as Diné, have long been a pastoral society. Sheep are prominent in their creation myths, and after Spanish colonists first brought the churro

sheep to the Southwest, the hardy, adaptable breed became, over centuries, the heart of a self-sufficient economy and vibrant Diné culture.

But the days of sheep camps and flocks roaming the arid plains and valleys here are long gone. On two separate occasions the churro came close to full extermination. From over 1 million head at one time, by 1977 there were fewer than 500 left in the world. Efforts have been gaining momentum in recent years to rebuild the breed and return flocks to the Navajo Nation. Decades of painstaking, sometimes dangerous, work by a handful of committed ranchers and animal scientists have helped restore the population to over 8,000.

Now, people on the Navajo Nation are working to bring flocks back to the reservation, to try and fill the economic and cultural void left by their near extinction.

"We're back in a place of reevaluating how we live," says Alta Piechowski, whose family has been involved in restoring the Navajo-Churro for decades.

"When you're walking the land [with the sheep], there's a different kind of healing," she adds. "It heals your heart, and when it heals your heart you're going to want other people's hearts to be healed too." READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3LtpkKa>

Bulletin Board

Navajo Nation Eyeing Gamerco Site for new GIMC

By John Christian Hopkins

The Navajo Nation Council has set aside \$200,000 to evaluate a property in Gamerco that could become the new home of the Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC).

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez is eyeing the 500-acre site and hopes to have the GIMC up and running in five years.

The Navajo Nation has contracted with a civil engineer to provide a Phase II site selection and evaluation report, said Paulson Chaco, the president's chief of staff.

The draft is on hold, pending final negotiations between the Navajo Nation and Gallup Land Partners, Chaco added.

In 2019 Indian Health Services and the Navajo Nation conducted a study on a parcel in the Rehobeth area. That site was determined to be in a flood plain area..

READ MORE: <https://www.lakepowelllife.com/navajo-nation-eying-gamerco-site-for-new-gimc/>



DCD Recognizes Department Managers

On March 18, 2020, DCD held a 1-day work session at Twin Arrows Conference Center to go over the proposed amendments to the DCD plan of operation. After the departments concluded their presentations, Dr. Yellowman and members of the RDC Committee presented the three DCD Department Managers with blankets to show appreciation for the work they had accomplished and to say thanks for continuing to work throughout the pandemic.

Mr. Rod Begay was also presented with an award for all the work he has done on behalf of the chapters and DCD over the years. He also received a blanket.

The RDC members were also provided an opportunity to provide some remarks. They each expressed their appreciation and encouragement to continue doing good work.

Mr. Pax Harvey was the facilitator for the work session and the awards ceremony.

Congratulations to all the Department Managers and Mr. Rod Begay for a job well done!



Bulletin Board

Tuba City resident seeks degree to help reservation animals

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – Growing up on the Navajo Nation and seeing helpless animals hurt, hungry, abandoned, abused and often, ignored, was enough motivation for Zachary Bauer to pursue a degree in veterinary science and to possibly open his own clinic someday, preferably in Tuba City.

"We lack the resources to get full care of people's animals and the strays," he said. "The reservation [doesn't] even have a fulltime veterinarian. We have a doctor that is currently [in Tuba City], but she's very stressed by the caseload of patients." Bauer said seeing the problem was one reason he wanted to attend veterinarian school. "(To) give back to my community by providing vaccinations, and spaying and neutering animals," he explained.

As part of his learning process and building upon his experience, he recently volunteered in his hometown of Tuba City with a vaccination drive where they also spayed and neutered animals. The event was hosted by the Tuba City Humane Society in partnership with the Parker Project, a mobile clinic working in the Four Corners area.

"I volunteered [and] helped give vaccinations to the dogs and cats," he said. "I was taking vitals and subcutaneous fluids. I also helped the Parker Project with the surgeries by monitoring the patients after their surgeries to make sure they were recovering healthy from their sedation and making sure there were no issues... so they [could] go home."

Bauer said he has always loved animals and said he fondly remembers his paternal grandmother having a lot of dogs and cats that he admired.



"Growing up, I was always around animals. [My grandma] got me my first dog," he said. He also said his parents encouraged him to be a driving force and to plow forward with his education.

"My mom and dad have put a lot into raising me," he said. "They provided so much, and they also sacrificed so much to raise me to [become] the person I am. I'm just doing whatever I can to make them proud. Whatever makes them happy is what keeps me going. He appreciates the confidence instilled in him and said his mother raised him to be a confident individual.

"I have the mindset... the sky is the limit," he said. "I always strive to do more and to challenge myself." He encourages young people to explore their career options and enter a field they love.

"I was always told that if you find a career path that you enjoy and love to do, you'll never work a day in your life," he said. "That's what I hope to do... working with animals. Find something you love to do."

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

Navajo Division of Transportation begins Navajo Route 57 Phase II Road Improvement



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) Executive Director Garrett Silversmith announced the start of Navajo Route 57 Phase II Road Improvement project in Tohajiilee, N.M. The N57 project includes nine miles of aggregate base course placement, asphalt placement, striping, and signage.

The project is funded by the Navajo Nation's Fuel Excise Tax Roads Fund, Sihasin Fund, and the State of New Mexico Transportation Funds in the amount of over \$5.6 million. President signed off on the contract to allow Phase II to proceed.

"The road improvement helps address safety concerns and

improves access to school, work, health, and emergency responses for the community of Tohajiilee. Many students, first responders, and tribal employees rely on this route daily. We thank the collaboration of local leaders, residents, and community organizations who voiced the need for this project. Transportation infrastructure is a top priority for our administration, and under the leadership of Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, we are seeing progress on many projects in our rural communities," said President Nez.

NDOT continues with construction and maintenance projects

throughout all weather conditions and is adamant about remaining on schedule to complete as many projects throughout the Navajo Nation, including N57.

"Navajo DOT and Arrow Indian Contractors continue to advance this project towards final completion. With warmer temperatures now, the construction contractor, Arrow Indian, will increase their Scope of Work responsibilities, such as earthwork, aggregate base course lay down, and others. We are looking at a late summer completion date. At that point, nine miles of N57 will have been asphalt paved, along with drainage improvement features. Within FY2022, N57 Tohajiilee is one of many projects Navajo DOT has scheduled. With the input of President Nez and Vice President Lizer, we have strategically planned various projects for improvements, such as newly paved highways, bridges, and improved earth dirt roads," said Director Silversmith.

The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President appreciates the community member's patience during traffic stops while contractors finish the pavement. NDOT also discourages all interstate traffic to detour on residential streets within the community.

"Transportation infrastructure improvements to highways, bridges, dams, and dirt roads are priorities in rural Navajo communities. The improvements to N57 and other roads will bring significant benefits to elders, students, families, and first responders. We appreciate the community members' and travelers' patience," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

The N57 project is expected to be completed at the end of Summer 2022.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2022/Apr/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20Navajo%20Division%20of%20Transportation%20begins%20Navajo%20Route%2057%20Phase%20II%20Road%20Improvement.pdf>

Bulletin Board



First Diné woman to head Navajo Times: Olivia Benally to become CEO/publisher of tribal newspaper

at the Times: senior accountant, controller, and finance director – jobs responsible for the company's long-term financial health and growth.

While the flexibility of working from home has been a game-changer for some Times staff, Benally's biggest challenge would be calling those workers back to office culture, emphasizing the need for in-person interaction and easy collaboration.

"And to use the space we have here," Benally said. "That would make sense regarding a full staff here."

"That way we could all learn how to develop better organization and better teamwork," she said. "And that open communication and bring forth the younger generation who could take us in a different direction."

Committed to the Times Benally started as a senior accountant at the paper nearly 20 years ago, when the Navajo Times was a large-circulation newspaper and had a big newsroom. Today, the Times newsroom has seven journalists.

Like her predecessor, Arviso, Benally will oversee all aspects of the company's news, editorial, and business operations. This means she'll become a crucial steward of Diné journalism at a time of widespread mistrust in the media and readers increasingly turning to online news sources. "I've always been behind Mr. Arviso," she said. "Now that I'm going to the forefront, I'm very concerned about how much longer the newspaper will be in full force."

While the Navajo Times' coverage helps people understand Diné Bikéyah well beyond news and politics, Arviso often reminds her that the Times storytelling reaches beyond the written word, sets the standard for Diné storytelling excellence, and reveals a dynamic view of Navajoland and its people.

"We've seen the decline in the subscribers and in the readership," Benally said. "But I'm always reminded that we are a unique newspaper that touches a lot of different people." From a high of 24,000 in circulation in 2012, the newspaper is steady at 11,500 today. But how can the Navajo Times hold on to its unique journalistic traditions while evolving to meet the needs of its readers and finding new ways to tell stories?

While the question will be her focus in her role as publisher, Benally would like to learn more about how Diné journalism helps people navigate a complex world and how the Times reporters shine a light on the truth, insight, and context to the most pressing issues in Navajoland.

"I've always been behind the scenes working in the business aspect – the finance and the numbers," she said. "That's something that I'd like to take a hands-on approach." Benally said this means also learning other parts of the company, including technology, and getting to know sources.

Encouraging strides

As the leader of the largest Native American-owned newspaper, Benally might often find herself facing off with the male executives in the industry. But she knows

it'll take strength to be an empathetic leader as it'll be a tricky line to walk. "It just puts more pressure on me," she said. "It's intimidating because Mr. Arviso did a really good job. I have big shoes to fill."

"He's (Arviso) the brand of the Navajo Times and everybody identifies him as 'Mr. Navajo Times,'" she said. "It's going to be hard."

Benally said she's reminded of the strong Diné women wielding power in their families and in the workplace and those who wear the crown, literal or not.

They are the ones who'll give her hope for the future, signal progress, and representation for Diné.

While she's working on improving her Diné language skills, she knows the time will come when she'll need someone on staff to speak on behalf of the paper Diné'ehjigo.

"But it's a humbling experience," she said. "We're all going to stick together during this new transition and continue to make a success of our Navajo Times because we've (staff) all been here long enough to know that this is our baby. "We need to continue to take care of it and take care of one another in that sense," she added. "We've all done a great job looking out for one another. We have that flexibility."

A look back – and ahead

Benally is known to her colleagues – and those close to her – of a Dallas Cowboys fanatic. She gushed: "That's how everyone knows me. I'm a big Cowboys fan and a big (Oklahoma) Sooners fan." She started at the Navajo Times nearly two decades ago. She learned how the newspaper operates and how it will continue to search for important stories with curiosity, courage, and empathy for years to come. "It's kind of like a big machine well-oiled," she said. "Everybody here is successful in establishing and maintaining the brand of the Navajo Times."

She highlights the fact that she's bringing the Navajo Times to a position of relative financial strength. The company now prioritizes wants, needs, and added benefits separately on her watch. And needs always come first. "I've done a little bit of chopping here and there," she said. "Maybe later on we can add when we're better situated."

In the meantime, Benally isn't moving to the bigger office. She'll stay in her office, holding the Times to the highest standards of independence, rigor, and fairness without fear and favor, steering the paper through the coronavirus pandemic, economic crisis, and societal shifts.

Benally said she appreciates the approval of the Times board and Arviso's mentorship.

"He (Arviso) has been very patient with me," she said. "He's helped me grow. He's the first male boss I've ever had. There was a lot of things I had to do differently because of that. "But in the end, it was all positive," she added. "It was uplifting, and it was encouraging."

"Congratulations, Olivia," Arviso said to Benally. "You're the first Diné female CEO/publisher in the 62-year history of the Navajo Times."

By Krista Allen

Apr 25, 2022

<https://navajotimes.com/reznews/first-dine-woman-to-head-navajo-times-olivia-benally-to-become-ceo-publisher-of-tribal-newspaper/>

TSÉBIGHÁHOODZÁÍ

From the earliest days of her childhood, Olivia Benally was taught that k'é comes first.

"Family comes first," she said. "Everyone here, I think of as my family."

As she sat in her office at the Navajo Times after a Tuesday deadline, Benally, the finance director, spoke of family, advancing culture for staffers and readers, and what lies ahead for the paper's new leadership.

Benally will become the CEO of the Navajo Times Publishing Co. and the publisher of the Navajo Times on May 9. Her ascension comes after the Navajo Times board voted in favor of the move during a meeting on Feb. 17.

Current CEO/Publisher Tom Arviso Jr. officially announced Jan. 27 that he would be retiring, catapulting Benally to a historic position as the paper's first female CEO/publisher, a milestone in its 62-year history.

She is from Kinlich'i, Arizona. She is Tábaqhá and was born for Tódich'i'nii. Her maternal grandfather is Bitáá'chii'nii (Táchi'nii), and her paternal grandfather is Tséjikiini.

Pathbreaker

Benally embodies the future of the Navajo Times, one of the few newspaper companies still printing and delivering to stores at a time when the industry is struggling.

She doesn't expect there to be a flurry of change.

When she takes the helm, she'll continue the newspaper's mission and values, serve readers and Diné society, ensure the continued strength of Diné journalism and business, and foster a healthy Navajo Times culture.

To prepare for the role, Benally served in three positions

Bulletin Board

Secretary Haaland Takes Action to Restore Tribal Authority to Adopt Water Laws - April 7, 2022

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland today rescinded a memorandum issued in 1975 by then-Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton regarding the authority to approve Tribal water codes. Today's action will streamline Departmental review of Tribal water codes and remove a widely perceived obstacle to their approval.

Secretary Haaland also announced that the Department will engage in Tribal consultations to discuss the appropriate delegation of approval authority and guidance on approval standards related to the review and processing of Tribal water codes.

"If we are to truly support Tribal self-determination, we cannot be afraid to review and correct actions of the past that were designed to create obstacles for Tribal nations. The 'Morton moratorium' is inconsistent with the Department's commitment to upholding Tribal self-determination and the federal trust responsibility to support Tribal sovereignty," said Secretary Haaland. "Today's action underscores our efforts to move forward in this new era."

In 1975, Secretary Morton issued a memorandum to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs directing "all [Bureau of Indian Affairs] superintendents and area directors to disapprove any tribal ordinance, resolution, code, or other enactment" that would regulate water use on Indian reservations and that under Tribal law required Departmental approval or review.

The memorandum imposed a procedural hurdle to adoption or enactment of water codes for Tribes with constitutions that require Secretarial approval of such codes. The action has created unnecessary confusion for nearly 50 years regarding the Department's willingness to work with and support Tribes considering water regulation within their reservations.

Most Tribes have constitutions that do not require Secretarial approval of Tribal water codes. In circumstances where Tribes have congressionally enacted Indian water settlements, they often include Tribal water code provisions that otherwise avoid potential conflicts with states or non-Indians.

Even for those Tribes whose constitutions require Secretarial approval of Tribal water codes, those Tribes may still amend their constitutions to remove Secretarial approval requirements.

Any approval of Tribal water codes must be done consistent with applicable court decisions and laws, including any enacted Indian water settlement, and contain provisions for the protection of Indian allottees consistent with advice previously provided by the Solicitor.

READ AT: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOI/bulletins/3125f2d>



Time, tradition and trust: The Navajo Nation takes on climate change



By Fiona L.Q. Flaherty/Cronkite News

PHOENIX – For many years, Tsegi Canyon on the Navajo Nation struggled: Its dry walls and streambanks were eroding, exposing crumbling red soil to the desert sky. Its springs were drying up; native plants were few and far between on the canyon floor, often replaced by invasive weeds.

This land, beautiful and remote, was tired, said Nicholas Chischilly, a wildlife technician with the Navajo Nation Climate Change Program, which operates under the tribe's Department of Fish and Wildlife.

There's a lot of history there, he said, and secluded Tsegi Canyon, – 13 miles from Kayenta near the Navajo National Monument – is one of the few places on the reservation where water flows year round.

Chischilly recalls hearing elders tell stories about days long past, when knee-high grass kept sheep and cattle healthy and fat across the vast nation.

But in recent years, he said, entering Tsegi Canyon was like going into another world.

"The stream banks were collapsing. Plant life was barely holding on. The families who live there told us about thousand-pound sections of cliff that fell off," Chischilly said. "We've also heard that the canyon has been eroding so fast that a lot of people thought that if their elders were to come back to the area, they would not recognize it."

But in a place where "the land makes the people," that is changing despite a host of challenges, from language barriers to decades of broken promises.

Starting in 2018, the exhausted canyon was finally allowed to rest, and a pilot project by Fred Phillips Consulting started restoration work. Fences were erected and livestock relocated. Native plants were reintroduced to restore the riparian area.

Two years later, Fred Phillips Consulting and volunteers from the Navajo Nation Climate Change Program put up more fencing, and they built Zuni bowls and employed other water management techniques to redirect and preserve streamflow.

Volunteers from the Navajo Nation Climate Change Program and a consulting firm put up fences and built Zuni bowls like this one in Tsegi Canyon to help improve water management in the canyon.

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

Bulletin Board

Construction of Dilkon Medical Center nears completion



DILKON, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Navajo Area IHS Director Roselyn Tso, and toured the new Dilkon Medical Center on Monday, which is currently 95-percent complete and will provide medical and emergency services to thousands of Navajo people in Dilkon, Ariz. and nearby communities in the southwest part of the Navajo Nation.

Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc. CEO Sally Pete and Board member Alberto L. Peshlakai were also part of the tour, which included a visit to the ongoing construction of 109 staff quarters and housing units that will be completed by September to house staff and medical personnel.

“This is a wonderful new health care facility that was developed based on the vision of our elders. There were many challenges along the way, but the Dilkon Health Center Steering Committee, led by Chairman Robert Salabye, never gave up and devoted their time and commitment for many years to make this happen – they exemplify the teaching of T’áá Hwó Aí T’éego, self-reliance and self-determination. This project is a great example of what can be accomplished by working.

together to achieve long-term improvements for our people. This is a large part of Nation building,” said President Nez.

In May 2019, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a letter to IHS authorizing Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc., in coordination with the Dilkon Health Care Steering Committee, to complete the design and construction of the new medical center under a Title V construction project agreement. President Nez and Vice President Lizer joined the community as construction broke ground on the new facility on June 25, 2019.

Over the course of three months, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority carefully filled a 310,000- gallon water tank

located next to the facility to deliver more water to meet daily needs. The construction team also encountered setbacks due to global supply chain issues and demand for construction materials that delayed progress.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to all of the great men and women who laid their hands to this great achievement for our Navajo people. Many nearby residents had to travel long distances to receive medical care, even in emergency situations, for many years. This new facility will open doors to more economic and community development that will allow the region to create more jobs, revenues, housing, and other opportunities. We commend all of the local leaders, public health officials, and the construction team for making this a great success,” said Vice President Lizer.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility also includes specially-built isolation rooms that allow patients to be separated from others to lower the risks associated with the virus. Solar panels have been installed on the roof of the facility to lower energy costs. Throughout the center, rooms are designed to maximize the benefits of natural lighting.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we thank local leadership, Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc. and board, the Dilkon Health Center Steering Committee, Navajo Area IHS Director Tso and her team, and all of the hard-working construction crews for their contributions to the new Dilkon Medical Center. We look forward to the opening of the facility soon,” added President Nez.

Construction is nearly two years ahead of schedule and the community is expected to host a grand opening ceremony for the new 154,000 square-foot facility in July, with medical services opening to patients in August.

READ AT: <https://bit.ly/3vsihMy>

NAU Helping Arizona Residents With Household Income Under 65-Thousand Dollars With Tuition



Dave Zorn

April 28, 2022 | 7:30pm

Northern Arizona University announced Thursday they will provide a tuition-free education for every Arizona resident whose household income is 65-thousand-dollars or lower. Tuition will be fully covered by scholarships and financial aid. The new changes come from the Access2Excellence initiative that was created to help Arizona residents get a higher education while maintaining social and economic stability. NAU President Jose Cruz Rivera is excited to see how this program will impact Arizona residents. Rivera says, “There is more to come, including reimaging our statewide footprint, expanding and updating our programmatic offerings, and finalizing our Strategic Roadmap to help guide our actions well into the future.” NAU will begin offering a tuition-free education in the Fall of 2023 for first-year students or those who have transferred to one of the NAU locations in Arizona.

READ MORE AT: https://gcmaz.com/kaff-news/kaff_news/nau-waiving-tuition-fees-for-arizona-residents-with-household-income-under-65-thousand-dollars/

Bulletin Board

Grad brings teaching gifts home to Navajo Nation



Story by Lana Sweeten-Shults

Photos by Ralph Fresno

GCU News Bureau

"The meaning of life is to find your gift," said artist Pablo Picasso. "The purpose of life is to give it away."

Falonna Ashley has found her gift.

And the recent Grand Canyon University teaching graduate has chosen to share it in one of the most hard-scrabbled places in the country: her home in the Navajo Nation.

It would have been easy to just stay in Phoenix, where she dove into her student teaching at Phoenix's Washington Elementary School District, then landed a job as a teacher's assistant in a self-contained classroom in Litchfield Park, where she first fell in love with special education.

The resources available to teachers and students at those schools were plentiful.

But when an opening came up for a teacher's assistant in Ganado, Arizona, about 20 miles from her hometown of onetime trading post Wide Ruins in the Navajo Nation, she didn't hesitate to apply.

Not one second.

Not even if the resources wouldn't be as plentiful.

Schools on Native American reservations, where buildings often go years in disrepair, have produced some of the lowest academic results in the country – a tragedy for many rural reservation communities, such as Wide Ruins and Ganado, where Bureau of Indian Education campuses are the only option.

Yet despite those challenges, Ashley was determined to take the bachelor's degree in elementary and special education she earned from GCU in 2019 and return home to the reservation to make the most significant impact she could as a teacher.

When she was in her 20s, the thought of even becoming a teacher was unimaginable for Ashley, who grew up in a family of seven siblings. Her father was an alcoholic who passed away when she graduated from high school and, "I vaguely remember my mom being there," she said.

She and her siblings attended boarding school and would herd sheep on their grandparents' sheep farm on the reservation, where they would spend most of their weekends.

It was from her grandmother, Alma, that she understood the value of education.

"She was the one who made sure we got back to the school on the weekdays, and she was the one who really emphasized that school is important. She was a really big advocate for education," said Ashley of her grandmother, who worked as a dorm parent at Wide Ruins Community School, the sole elementary school in an area of 1,000 residents on the southern end of the Navajo Nation.

That drive for education stayed with her long after her grandmother passed away from leukemia in 2001, when Ashley was just 12 years old. Yet she never thought she was smart enough to pursue higher education.

"After high school, I kind of just went to Maricopa Community College just to go – for something to do. ... I guess I was kind of lost," Ashley said.

She trudged through four years of studies to earn her associate degree in liberal arts, and it wasn't until one of the teachers and the principal at the school in Ganado encouraged her that she thought she could do more.

"Every year during my evaluation, they would say to me: 'I want to challenge you to go back to school and become a teacher.' ... But I thought it would be too hard."

Once she found the confidence she needed, Ashley enrolled in GCU online classes and, for three years, while continuing to work as a teacher's assistant, did the work and earned her bachelor's degree, then took the next step.

On Tuesday, she walked across the Commencement stage at GCU Arena after completing her master's in educational leadership and now teaches special education at Greasewood Springs Community School on the Navajo reservation, a kindergarten through eighth grade school about an hour away from Wide Ruins that will be getting new facilities soon for its 220 kindergarten through eighth grade students.

"It's in a very rural area. The nearest Walmart is like an hour away ... even the nearest town, you're driving over an hour just to get groceries or do laundry or go to the movies or eat out," said Ashley, though some who live on the farther reaches of the reservation travel up to two hours for some of those conveniences.

Because of the distance home, Ashley lives in housing near the school available to teachers and travels home on the weekends.

Despite the remoteness and lack of resources, Ashley is dedicated to teaching there.

"I want to work with children who have the same culture as me. A lot of them grew up similar, or the same environment, that I did. ... In the end, I wanted to work with Navajo children."

She's using her teaching gifts to work with the school's special education students, and it's important for her, she said, to share how "our students are students of the school first before they are a student with a disability."

"When you work with special education, they kind of think, 'I can't do it. It's too hard. I can't do it, I can't do it.' You have to really work with them individually, and then when they do get it, you see the light in their eyes and their face lights up."

She also tries to remember what she learned in her master's program: lead by example, something she keeps in mind every day in a profession she loves.

"The goal was never to make it off the rez," said Ashley. "The goal was to show rez kids that we are capable of far more than anyone wants to believe we are. We are Navajo people. We are resilient, we are strong and we are here."

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

Not only has Ashley found her gift, she has returned home to give that gift away.

READ MORE AT: <https://news.gcu.edu/2022/04/grad-brings-teaching-gifts-home-to-navajo-nation/>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
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, 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
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sanostee, NM	38,836.80	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
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
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Hardrock, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rough Rock, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Oljato, UT	38,836.80	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	38,836.80	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Iyanbito, NM	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Whitecone, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Capital Projects Management Department			
Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	69,217.20	OUF

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

Closing Dates may change due to 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

“The best
Preparation
for tomorrow
is doing your
best today.”

ASC HOLDS APPRECIATION RECEPTION FOR MS. DEIDRA DALE



The Administrative Services Center (ASC) Department held an Appreciation reception for Deidra Dale, Administrative Assistant, for the ASC Department for nearly 3-years. Deidra accepted a new position out of state and her last day of employment is April 29, 2022.

Ms. Dale has played a critical role for the ASC Department in the last three years as the Division of Community Development (DCD) transitioned into a new administration and with the COVID-19 Emergency Operations. “Deidra was probably the youngest employee at DCD who step up during the government shutdown back in March 2020 due to the pandemic,” stated Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Department Manager. “Deidra continued working as an essential employee when most Navajo Nation employees went on administrative leave and she help us with the Health Command Operations Center (HCOC) within the Navajo Department of Health.”

Deidra came into the Navajo Nation government as a new employee after returning to the Navajo Nation and during her employment she was a part-time college student taking classes in the evening and weekends toward a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Dine’ College. Deidra utilized her skills as a high school coach to navigate the Division of Community Development and the Navajo Nation governmental services. “She is a treasure, she is one of those employees that supervisors look for, she is open-minded and a team player,” states Jim-Martin. “As a young woman in the Navajo Nation workforce, the skills she learned will guide her in her next chapter of her life as an Indigenous woman leader.”

The staff of the Division of Community Development and ASC Department would like to extend their appreciation and well wishes to Deidra Dale for her exceptional service to the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

Earth Day: April 22, 2022

APRIL 22, 2022

RELEASE NUMBER CB22-SFS.53

From The American Presidency Project, Proclamation 4287–Earth Week, 1974:

“To love America is not to care only for her freedoms, her promise, her institutions through which our great people strive for larger greatness. It is also to love the land and to cherish that which has sustained our people both in body and spirit from our earliest days on this vast continent.

“In recent times we have understood that however rich and beautiful, our land is finite and that our waters and air must be used as any other resource—with care and respect for their value. The celebration of Earth Day in 1970 was the first national acknowledgement of this understanding, and in the succeeding four years we have done much to insure that America the beautiful—the heritage of our generation—will be preserved and passed on as a legacy to generations yet unborn.”

April 22, 2022, marks the 52nd anniversary and 53rd observance of Earth Day, a day intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth’s natural environment. In 1969, organizers started Earth Day in response to a massive oil spill in waters near Santa Barbara, California. To celebrate, this edition of Stats for Stories presents U.S. Census Bureau statistics about energy and the environment.

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



National Arbor Day: April 29, 2022

APRIL 29, 2022

RELEASE NUMBER CB22-SFS.57

From The American Presidency Project, Proclamation 4126–National Arbor Day:

“April of this year [1972] marks the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day, an observance that holds as much significance for the future as it does for the past.

“On a monument erected in Nebraska City to commemorate the founding father of this celebration, J. Sterling Morton, there is this inscription: ‘Other Holidays Repose Upon The Past; Arbor Day Proposes For The Future.’ So it does, for the planting of trees is an action that yields a long-range benefit on generations to come. Arbor Day uniquely symbolizes the truth that the earth belongs to every generation, not just to ours.







“Einstein is believed to have said that a person should put back into this world at least as much as he takes out of it. The best available evidence suggests that an individual American, in his lifetime, uses the wood produced by some 200 mature trees. It is probably too much to expect that each American plant that many trees, but it is not too much to ask that each American assume a large, personal responsibility for renewing and preserving our environmental heritage.”

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



How America Gets Renewable Power

Business establishments in the U.S. in 2019

		Number of establishments	Paid employees ¹	Annual payroll (thousands)
Hydroelectric		542	4,615	\$462,762
Solar		270	2,953	\$343,736
Wind		510	6,104	\$696,287
Geothermal		31	1,138	\$124,517
Biomass		124	2,180	\$180,968
Other electric power generation ²		90	237	\$23,238
Total		1,567	17,227	\$1,831,508

¹ Paid employees consists of full- and part-time employees in the pay period including March 12.

² Other electric power generation: facilities that convert other forms of energy, such as tidal power, into electric energy.



County Business Patterns Average Annual Payroll Per Employee by Industry

Sectors

Information	\$122,930
Utilities	\$115,547
Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$114,822
Finance and Insurance	\$112,758
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	\$93,547
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	\$85,326
Wholesale Trade	\$75,594
Construction	\$63,900
Manufacturing	\$61,520
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$57,728
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$52,624
Transportation and Warehousing	\$51,187
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$47,864
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	\$44,898
Educational Services	\$41,549
Other Services (except Public Administration)	\$34,043
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$31,384
Retail Trade	\$30,673
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17,357

Average
for all sectors:
\$56,385

Note: Rankings may vary slightly due to nonsampling error and disclosure avoidance methods used to protect the confidentiality of the data. Number of employees is for the pay period including March 12. Average for all sectors includes data for establishments where industry classification is unknown.





NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Schedule Now!

Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings

Topics

- Review the *Title 26 Local Governance Act - Zoning & Community Based Land Use Plans*
- Provide overview of Land-Use Planning for Navajo Chapters
- Review the CLUPC certification process
- Strategic Planning assistance
- Community assessment collection tools & methods
- Introduction of land use planning topics
- Technical Assistance
- Solid Waste Management

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April 2022



BEING UP-TO-DATE
on vaccines is the best way to protect
against severe COVID-19 illness.
This includes a **BOOSTER SHOT.**

 **DIKOS NTSAAÍGÍÍ-19**
CORONAVIRUS

NAVAJO HEALTH COMMAND OPERATIONS CENTER
(P) 928.871.7014
(E) coronavirus.info@navajo-nsn.gov
www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19

  
[@navajodephealth](https://www.facebook.com/navajodephealth)
[#DineDabiziiil](https://twitter.com/navajodephealth)





LET'S MAKE IT FOUR



**A SECOND BOOSTER
(4TH VACCINATION)**

**IS RECOMMENDED FOR
THOSE 50 YEARS AND
OLDER OR ARE
IMMUNOCOMPROMISED**



April 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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