

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

JUNE 2022

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## Did You Know...

Jacoby Ellsbury is an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and is of Navajo descent. He played in Major League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox from 2007-2013 and the New York Yankees from 2014-2017. He is the first Native American of Navajo descent to play Major League Baseball.

## Events:

### June: Ya'iishjaashchili - "Planting of Early Crops"

- June 1: Navajo Nation Memorial Day
- June 14: Flag Day
- June 19: Father's Day
- June 19: Juneteenth
- June 20: Juneteenth (Observed)
- June 21: Summer Solstice

### July: Ya'iishjaashtsoh - "Planting of Late Crops"

- July 1-4: Navajo Nation AG Expo 4th Of July Celebration
- July 4: Independence Day

## NM reaches \$32M settlement for 2015 Gold King Mine spill that turned the Animas River yellow

Navajo Nation also reaches its own settlement for \$31 million, President Nez announces



BY: PATRICK LOHMANN - JUNE 16, 2022

State officials on Thursday gathered in Farmington to announce a \$32 million settlement with the federal government after its contractors caused nearly 1 million pounds of heavy metals to flood into the watershed serving parts of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation seven years ago.

On Aug. 5, 2015, contractors for the Environmental Protection Agency were monitoring seepage in the abandoned Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado. They excavated an area above a mine opening, and the bedrock collapsed, releasing 3 millions gallons of waste into a tributary of the Animas River.

The water, tainted by tailings from gold mining that ended in the 1990s, flooded the Animas River watershed and turned its waters bright yellow. The tailings contained heavy metals like cadmium

and lead, plus other toxic elements like arsenic, iron and copper.

The governor said the community around Farmington suffered in major, measurable ways while the plume floated down the river. Farmers couldn't irrigate. No one used the river for recreation or fishing. Few tourists visited.

"This community declined because we didn't have access in the way we needed to," the governor said at the news conference. "This announcement today... means that we're investing through the community."

The EPA will pay also the Navajo Nation \$31 million, according to the Nation's Department of Justice.

"When the spill occurred, we went to the Gold King Mine site and saw firsthand the impacts to the land and water. The Gold King Mine blowout damaged entire



communities and ecosystems in the Navajo Nation,” President Jonathan Nez said in a news release. “This important settlement reflects the U.S. EPA’s recognition of the suffering it caused the Navajo Nation and our people.”

The settlement, announced Thursday at the Farmington Museum, comes after nearly six years of litigation between the states affected, the Navajo Nation, the federal government and the contractors and mining companies that caused the mess.

Under the settlement agreement, the United States will pay New Mexico \$18.1 million for costs in responding to the emergency, \$10 million for restoration of natural resources and \$3.5 million more for state water quality and cleanup.

In January, the companies agreed to pay \$40 million to the United States government and \$4 million to the state of Colorado, and the EPA agreed to pay \$45 million toward the cleanup in Colorado.

Late last year, the state and the Navajo Nation reached a \$11 million settlement with the companies that left the toxic metals in the mine: Sunnyside Gold Corporation, Kinross Gold Corporation and Kinross Gold U.S.A., Inc.

New Mexico is still pursuing a lawsuit against the contractors that caused the spill: Environmental Restoration, LLC and Weston Solutions, Inc.

The escaped metal tailings made their way through the Animas and San Juan Rivers through New Mexico and the Navajo Nation all the way to Lake Powell in Utah. The plume caused communities on and off the Nation to close irrigation canals and drinking water systems, and drastically reduce use of the rivers for farming, fishing and recreation.

A lawsuit from the state in May 2016 also said some reaches of the Animas River became “sinks” that temporarily hold the toxic metals until rain, snowfall or other events carried them further downstream.

The rivers are “now safe for irrigation and other uses,” according to the Governor’s Office, but “the stigma associated with the event has had lasting effects on the region’s economy.”

READ MORE AT: <https://sourcennm.com/2022/06/16/new-mexico-reaches-32m-settlement-for-2015-gold-king-mine-spill-that-turned-the-animas-river-yellow/>

June 2022

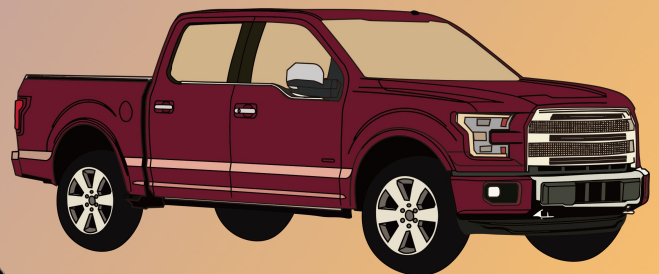
# Heavy Equipment Updates

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

Deliveries are pending for July

**NABIJN-18-22 has passed.**

**It amends CJA-01-21 and NABIS-36-21 to extend the Sihasin Heavy Equipment Purchase funds until 12/2023**



# ASC and Tonaneesdizi Chapter Host Heavy Equipment Training

BY Calvin Tsosie, SPPS, Kayenta ASC

The two-day Western Navajo Agency Training was a success. We had twenty-one (21) participants for both days. This group was a little bit more advanced than other groups because some of the operators were retired from Peabody Coal Company and offered many years of experience.

Those Senior Operators didn't mind working part-time for the WNA Chapters. Some of these part-time operators can possibly operate heavy equipment for multiple chapters. The group were very interested in receiving the latest information on Heavy Equipment operating techniques and



features.

The Equipment are getting more technologically advance and their capability are amazing. There is so much technology advancement in heavy equipment compared to the knuckle buster days to the current up-to-date heavy equipment.

I really enjoyed working with Alex Santiago, Certified Trainer of RDO (John Deere) Equipment of Flagstaff, AZ. We keep the interest and attention of all participants for both days despite having real hot weather.

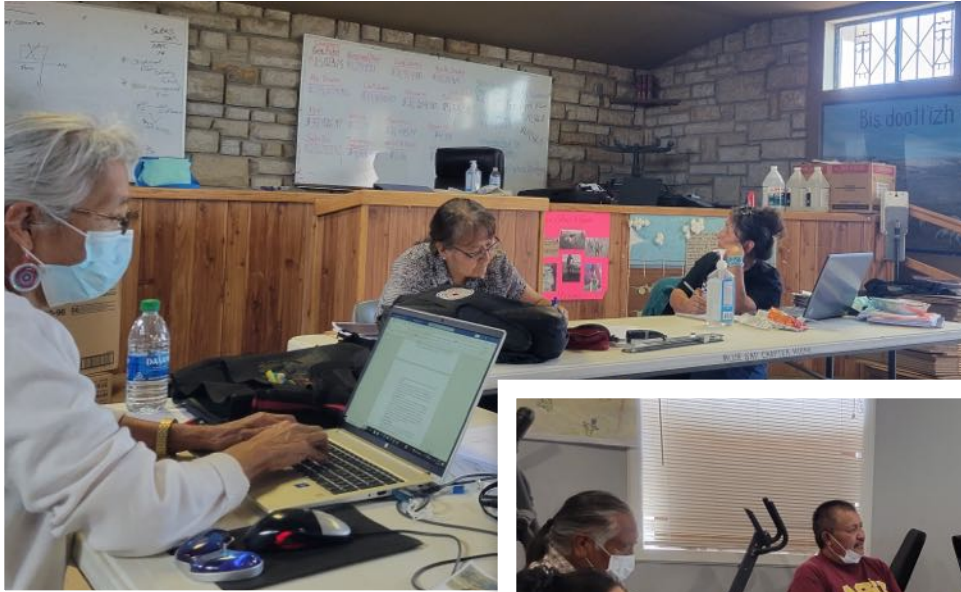


# DCD and ASC Continue CLUP Orientations at Chapters

Ms. Latasha James, Senior Planner, and the ASC SPPS staff continue to host Community Land Use Planning (CLUP) Orientations for Navajo chapters. For the month of June, Ms. James and the ASC staff conducted several CLUP orientations. Latasha mentioned, "Each community is different, so they have different community needs and planning projects. It is important to update the CLUP manuals because it is a roadmap for your community."

The orientations are structured to gain valuable knowledge and understanding of the CLUP manual recertification process.

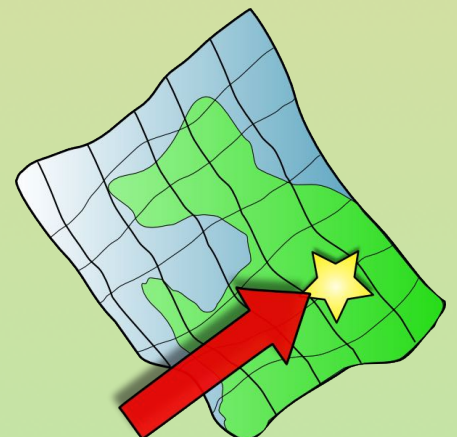
Ms. James provides hands-on community-based planning methods and materials to help the chapters with recertification. Don't hesitate to contact the SPPS staff in your service area or the Senior Planner for more information and to schedule an orientation.



**BLUE GAP CHAPTER**



**CHILCHINBETO CHAPTER**



**DILKON CHAPTER**

# Mariano Lake Chapter Gets a Telecommunications Tower

On June 22, 2022, the Mariano Lake Chapter held a blessing for their new telecommunications tower. Cellular One constructed the tower and is the principal operator. Other collocated tenants include Sacred Winds Communications and AT&T/FirstNet. The funding for the tower came from the New Mexico PRC using their broadband fund program.



The activities began with remarks by Cellular One representatives, Mariano Lake Chapter President Jay R. DeGroat, and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. Next came the blessing at the tower site performed by a local pastor. This was followed by refreshments and snacks for the attendees. Speakers remarked that it was good to finally see the fruits of all the hard work that went into this project over the years. The area had been without cell service for a long time but now can support much needed cell service and broadband that students desperately need to do their work.



# A Chain of Inspiration has Grown Mountain Biking in the Navajo Nation, from the Tour de Rez to the Rezduro



PHOTO: JOSH CONROY, COURTESY OF REZDURO

BY MATT MILLER

JUNE 28, 2022 UPDATED JUNE 28, 2022

If happiness is contagious, then it's moving even quicker on two wheels in the Navajo Nation thanks to advocates in the Southwest. One ride can change a life and that life can change countless other lives. Tom Riggenschach, Claudia Jackson, and Nigel James — amongst other riders on the rez — are proving this.

Riggenschach moved to the Navajo Nation decades ago and started the Tour de Rez, a fundraising effort which has transformed into a race series. Claudia Jackson rode the Tour de Rez one year and was inspired to start the Tour de SiiHasin, a ride for suicide awareness, which in turn is leading young female mountain bike athletes and developing some of the first mountain bike optimized trails in the Indian Wells area. Nigel James, who rode the Tour de SiiHasin when he was in his mid-teens started the Rezduro, known as the first enduro race on the Navajo reservation.

All three programs are growing interest and showing there has been an unanswered demand for mountain biking in the Navajo Nation.

## Tom Riggenschach, leading a bike movement on the reservation

Tom Riggenschach has lived on the Navajo Nation reservation for 35 years. Originally from Illinois, Riggenschach moved to Shonto, Arizona sight unseen after he graduated college to take on a job as a teacher. He now organizes the Tour de Rez, which has morphed from a few folks trying out bikepacking across the reservation before its heyday to a series of five different events including the Chuska Challenge, the Beclabito Bike Race, and more.

Riggenschach described the first Tour de Rez as “winging it” for a good cause. “We basically just took off from Shonto and our goal was to do fundraising for some community programs. And at the same time, we were trying to see how biking might go.”

They left Shonto and rode to the southern part of the reservation, and then to Window Rock in the east, and then through the Chuska mountains. "It ended up being a great ride," he said. They did it again in 1992 with a group of young riders, and by 1993 it became an established event. In 2019, the Tour de Rez transitioned from the weeklong ride into the series of race/rides starting in March and stretching through the long, hot summer. The Chuska Challenge is the exclamation mark on the season and happens in the final weekend of September with both ride and race options, with route choices ranging from 15 to 55 miles long.

Riggenbach says The Chuska Route, an 80-mile route that can be bikepacked, is a fresh option for people who want to explore the reservation by bike, since private land can interfere with riding, and singletrack is few and far between in the Navajo Nation

Though the reservation still appears rugged and vast, the infrastructure isn't necessarily bike friendly. In Monument Valley, where he lives now, there is a 17-mile road that riders can share with vehicles, but mountain bikers are encouraged to go to Moab. Riggenbach says that reservation residents have used bikes as tools for tracking livestock, and cycling is growing, but even commuting with bikes is challenging since towns are spread so far apart. Hiking and mountain biking



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NAVAJO YES

opportunities on the reservation are growing though. Riggenbach shared this Navajo Nation trail guide which highlights important etiquette rules, trail networks, and the Chuska MTB route.

In light of health issues common on the reservation Riggenbach's hope, along with the Tour de Rez and Navajo Yes, is to "create communities where wellness is kind of the default option for families and folks in these communities so that it's easy to be active and fit."



READ MORE AT: <https://www.singletracks.com/community/a-chain-of-inspiration-has-grown-mountain-biking-in-the-navajo-nation-from-the-tour-de-rez-to-the-rezduro/>



## Malware Scams are on the Rise: How to Spot a Fake Tech

Scammers offering tech support con their victims out of 1000s of dollars. Here's how to spot and avoid an online scam. Have you received an email or phone call telling you that your computer is infected with malware? It sounds scary, like there's a serious problem with your computer. And the caller offers to fix the problem for you, if only you'll pay the fee for their tech support.

This is an increasingly common type of scam which targets people who are worried about losing access to their computer due to a virus. Unscrupulous scammers will make up problems with your computer and take your money for a fix you don't need. We'll show you how to spot and avoid these fake tech support scams.



### SCAM OF THE WEEK: Your Next Notification Could Be a "Smishal" Delivery!

UK residents are targets of a recent smishing (SMS Phishing) scam. In this scam, cybercriminals impersonate the home delivery company, Evri through fake failed delivery text messages that include a link to reschedule the delivery.

The link included in these fake delivery notifications leads to a phony look-alike website. On the website, you're asked to provide your personal and financial information to reschedule the delivery. Unfortunately, if you fill out and submit this form, you won't be receiving any packages. Instead, you'll be delivering your sensitive information right to the cybercriminals.

Follow these tips to protect yourself from similar smishing attacks:

- Think before you tap. Are you expecting a package? Have you signed up for text notifications? Is this like notifications you've received before from this company?
- Never tap on a link in an email or text message that you were not expecting. Instead, open your browser and enter the official URL for the website you wish to visit.
- To verify the legitimacy of a delivery notification, contact the company by phone, email, or their official mobile app. Do not use the phone number or link sent in the text to contact the company.

Navajo Nation (D of IT)  
[navajo-nsn.gov](http://navajo-nsn.gov)

Stop, Look, and Think. Don't be fooled.



### How Tech Support Scammers Contact You

There are a variety of ways that tech support scammers will try to convince you that your computer is infected with malware. Often you will receive a phone call or an email from someone who claims to be a representative of Microsoft. They'll tell you that they have identified a threat on your computer, or that they have detected suspicious activity on your account.

Sometimes they will say that your computer has a virus or has malware. Other times they'll say that someone is trying to hack or access your computer without your permission. Or they might say that your computer is in need of optimization or updating.

They'll then tell you that you need to get this problem fixed or that your computer will stop working. Sometimes they'll say that if you don't fix the problem you will lose all your files like your photos or your music. An alternative version of the scam uses popups on websites. When you visit a dodgy site, a popup will appear like the one above saying that a virus has been detected. These popups can be cleverly designed to look just like real Windows popups or error screens.

#### What Happens When You Respond to a Tech Support Scam

If you respond to these scams by calling the phone number provided, one of two things will happen. The first and most common option is that the scammers will sell you software they say will fix the problem. They will direct you to a website where you put in your credit card details and download the "security software".

When you run the fake security software, often it will do nothing at all but will give you a message saying that your computer is now free of malware so you think it worked. Other times, the software can actually install real malware onto your computer.

The second option is that the person on the phone will tell you they need to remote access into your computer. They will instruct you to give them access to your computer in real time, while you are on the phone, and then they will take control of your computer.

They will pretend to be fixing your "malware", but in reality they are installing software onto your computer which can be used to steal your identity or credit card details.

You should only ever let someone you really trust like a friend or a family member have remote access to your computer. Learn more about how to use remote access safely and securely.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3HQjn9s>



# Bulletin Board

## Three Arizona tribal leaders appointed to new Interior advisory panel

BY: SHONDIIN SILVERSMITH  
JUNE 17, 2022

Tribal leaders from Arizona and across the country will have direct access to advising the U.S. Department of the Interior for the first time in history with the creation of a tribal advisory panel.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland this week launched the first-ever Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

"Tribes deserve a seat at the decision-making table before policies are made that impact their communities," Haaland said as she announced the committee during her remarks at the National Congress of American Indians 2022 Mid-Year Conference.

Three Arizona tribal leaders were appointed to the committee, including Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, who said he was glad that the Department of the Interior will join other federal agencies with similar advisory panels.

"It will give tribal leaders an opportunity to set the budget, request funding, reevaluate tribal consultation policies and be a part of recommending how the Department of Interior, especially with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, could work better with tribes throughout the country," Nez told the Arizona Mirror.

"It's an opportunity to represent at the national level," he

added. "I appreciate President Biden and Secretary Haaland for appointing us to this inaugural tribal advisory committee."

The other Arizona appointees are Daniel Tso, a Navajo Nation council delegate, and Terry Rambler, chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee will provide tribal leaders with direct, consistent contact and communication with Department officials, according to the Interior Department. The committee allows tribal leaders the opportunity to facilitate vital discussions on intergovernmental responsibilities.

They'll also get the chance to exchange views, share information and provide advice and recommendations regarding Departmental programs and funding that impacts Tribal Nations, the department stated in a press release.

"Tribal members who are joining the first-ever Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee will be integral to ensuring Tribal leaders can engage at the highest levels of the Department on the issues that matter most to their people," Haaland said in a press release. "I look forward to continued engagement and ensuring that the Department honors and strengthens our nation-to-nation relationships with Tribes."

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee will consist of two tribal



representatives from each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs Regions across the United States.

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

## Vernon L. Jackson Sr. sworn-in as the Navajo Nation Chief Prosecutor

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Navajo Nation Attorney General Doreen N. McPaul congratulate Vernon L. Jackson, Sr., who took the Oath of Office on Wednesday, to serve as the new Navajo Nation Chief Prosecutor. Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne administered the oath to Jackson during a ceremony held at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice in Window Rock, Ariz.

Chief Prosecutor Jackson is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from Chinle, Ariz. Since July 2021, Jackson has served as the Acting Chief Prosecutor. He has a Bachelor's degree from Boston University in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master of Business degree from Bellevue University. His experience includes over 20 years of federal law enforcement service as a special agent, including serving as the Assistant Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, as well as over ten years of law enforcement experience with the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety. Jackson is also a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association.

"We congratulate Chief Prosecutor Vernon L. Jackson, Sr., and his family as he took the sacred oath to serve and protect our Navajo people. Together, Chief Prosecutor Jackson and Attorney General McPaul can begin to build a legacy for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. We are confident that Jackson will serve our communities with dignity and preserve the best interests of victims with fair prosecution that balances offender's accountability with prevention, intervention, and restorative justice," said President Nez.

Prior to taking the oath, Chief Prosecutor Jackson expressed his appreciation and looks forward to continuing to make improvements within the Navajo Nation justice system, "I am honored for this opportunity to serve the Navajo people, and I am committed to ensuring the prosecution of crimes in a manner that effectively promotes public safety."

"Mr. Jackson has dedicated his career to seeking justice by holding perpetrators accountable and helping victims. His experience and expertise within the public safety sector will serve the Navajo people well. I am confident that the Office of the Prosecutor will continue to stabilize and thrive under Mr. Jackson's leadership," said Attorney General McPaul.



"As Chair of the Navajo Nation Council Sexual Assault Subcommittee, I applaud Mr. Jackson's appointment. With his appointment, the prosecution of crimes on the Navajo Nation can be more effective and focused. More importantly, the victims of crime will benefit greatly from his appointment," said Navajo Nation Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty.

Additionally, Navajo Nation Council Delegate Eugene Tso stated that Jackson's appointment would open new opportunities, strategies, and improvements to the justice system on the Navajo Nation.

"The Navajo Division of Public Safety is certainly proud of the permanent appointment and selection of Chief Prosecutor Vernon L. Jackson, Sr. We worked with Chief Prosecutor Jackson in an acting-Chief capacity for the past year, and he did an exemplary job. We thank the Navajo Department of Justice for making a fine selection, welcome the new Chief Prosecutor, and look forward to continuing working with him," added Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director Jesse Delmar.

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

# Bulletin Board

## \$18 Billion Bi-Partisan Budget signed by Arizona Governor with \$55 Million allocated for the Navajo Nation



PHOENIX, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and members of the State Task Force Sub-Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation applaud the signing of the historic \$18 billion Fiscal Year 2023 budget signed into law today by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey.

The bi-partisan budget allocates \$55 million for road infrastructure projects, veterans services, housing construction, tribal education programs, and the Kayenta judicial complex that was passed by the Arizona State Senate and House of Representatives last week.

Senator Theresa Hatathlie (LD7), Representative Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren (LD7), and Representative Myron Tsosie (LD7) worked with Governor Ducey, Senate President Karen Fann, House Speaker Rusty Bowers, and Appropriations Chairwoman Regina Cobb to push forward the funding priorities of the Navajo Nation in Legislative District 7.

“The Navajo Nation appreciates the leadership of our Arizona delegation for working across the aisle with their Republican colleagues and Governor Ducey to approve this \$55 million investment. This budget was only possible because Senator Hatathlie, Representative Blackwater-Nygren, and Representative Tsosie worked with community leaders, chapter officials, and at the grassroots level to identify these infrastructure projects. We commend their hard work and steadfast leadership on behalf of our schools, veterans, and Navajo families,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

House Bill No. 2858 and 2862 include funds for children, veterans, roads, public safety, housing, education, and the construction of facilities for Arizona tribes, including the following Navajo Nation projects:

• Lukachukai Veterans Multi-Purpose Complex - \$500,000

• Veteran Service Officers to provide services in rural communities - \$2.2 million

• Funding for tribal ceremonies funding for discharged tribal military members and those dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) - \$1 million

• Highway 89 Roundabout in Page, Ariz. - \$5 million

• Loop Road improvements in Ganado, Ariz. - \$1 million

• N39 Road funding shortfall for Sweetwater, Ariz. - \$6 million

• N9402 Road improvements for Lupton and Houck, Ariz. - \$10 million

• Judicial Complex in Kayenta, Ariz. - \$2 million

• Missing and Murdered Indigenous People funding for the Office of the Attorney General - \$2 million

• Tribal Child Trauma Training - \$100,000

• Little Colorado Visitor Center - \$1 million

• Multi-Purpose Center for Teesto, Ariz. - \$1 million

• Community Center for Dilkon, Ariz. - \$3 million

• Navajo and Hopi tribal housing - \$4 million

• Navajo Technical University environmental laboratory in Chinle, Ariz. - \$4 million

• Diné College Student Center in Tuba City, Ariz. - \$8 million

• Funding for Indian education, language, cultural and historic preservation - \$5 million

“We prioritized community-based, shovel-ready projects, and programs that would help our most vulnerable communities during this pandemic. Most of these projects have been years in the making and we give credit to previous state representatives and senators who were here before us. The \$55 million is an investment to the Navajo people and my colleagues are proud to have pushed forward this state budget,” said Representative Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren.

The Arizona Legislature has historically overlooked its 22 Tribal Nations, pushing aside its priorities and citing state jurisdiction as a reason to not invest in tribal communities. According to Senator Hatathlie and Representative Tsosie, that narrative changed this budget session.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3I3cCBh>

# Bulletin Board

## UArizona to provide tuition-free education for Native American undergraduates in Arizona

By Kyle Mittan, University Communications|

*Graduates listen to speakers at the convocation ceremony for Native American Student Affairs on May 6. Chris Richards/University of Arizona*

The new Arizona Native Scholars Grant program, the first of its kind for a public Arizona university, will cover tuition and mandatory fees for full-time undergraduate students from Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes who are studying on the main campus.

Undergraduate students from the state's 22 federally recognized Native American tribes will no longer have to pay tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Arizona main campus in Tucson.

Beginning in the fall, new and continuing full-time, degree-seeking, in-state undergraduates will be eligible for the Arizona Native Scholars Grant, the first program of its kind in Arizona. The program will be administered by UArizona Enrollment Management.

"Serving Arizona's Native American tribes and tribal students is a crucial part of the University of Arizona's land-grant mission, and the Arizona Native Scholars Grant program is another important step among many to do that," said University of Arizona President Robert C. Robbins. "I am so proud that that this university has found a way to help hundreds of students more easily access and complete a college education, and I look forward to finding ways to take these efforts even further."

To be eligible, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, and provide tribal identification. Native American tribes' federal legal status allows universities to administer scholarships and grants to tribal members.

More than 400 students enrolled at UArizona last year meet the criteria for the new program.

Serving Arizona's Native American tribes and students is a key part of the university's strategic plan, and is central to the plan's Arizona Advantage pillar, which highlights the university's role as a land-grant institution. Tucson is home to the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

"The University of Arizona is committed to recognizing and acknowledging the history endured by Native American communities," said Kasey Urquidez, UArizona vice president of enrollment management and dean of undergraduate admissions. "We are committed to promoting access and success for Indigenous students. This program is part of our continual commitment to serve our Indigenous Wildcats."

The new grant is part of a host of university programs and partnerships with Native American communities and students, particularly those in Arizona. In the fall, a survey by the National Science Foundation showed that UArizona is the top doctorate-granting institution for American Indian or Alaska Native students.

The university's Indigenous Resilience Center, established in September in the Arizona



Institute for Resilient Environments and Societies, works directly with tribal nations to address environmental challenges in ways that respect Native and Indigenous sovereignty and knowledge.

Several programs in the College of Education, including the Indigenous Teacher Education Program and Native SOAR, offer training and support for K-12 teachers in Arizona, especially those who serve Indigenous communities.

During the 2020-21 academic year, the James E. Rogers College of Law was among the top three U.S. law schools with the highest number of Native American students pursuing a Juris Doctor, according to the latest data from the American Bar Association. The college is home to the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program, which is renowned for its scholarship on American Indian and Indigenous peoples law, policy and human rights.

"These initiatives aren't checkmarks; they represent the University of Arizona's commitment and continued drive to be the leading institution serving Native Americans," said Levi Esquerra, UArizona senior vice president for Native American advancement and tribal engagement. "This is a very exciting time, and we're going to continue our work with tribes to make great things happen."

In the future, Urquidez said, the program may expand to graduate students, University of Arizona Online students and students at other UArizona campuses. The university will also look to potential donor support to help fund the program.

More details about the Arizona Native Scholars Grant, including how to apply, will be available on the Scholarships and Financial Aid website, along with information about other programs that serve Indigenous students

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3u8FTEA>

# Bulletin Board

## Lupton Chapter Receives New Road Signs

By MC Baldwin  
May 27, 2020

Mr. Sherman Yazzie was instrumental in launching the rural addressing project for Lupton at the time that he was an LRAC member. Last week, the chapter received shipment of the road/street sign materials. Today, we installed the first intersection sign in addition to the installations of other base posts with Eddie & Frankie (LRAC).



## Navajo Nation leaders finalize Navajo Utah Water Settlement Act



MONUMENT VALLEY, Utah – Navajo Nation leaders finalized the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act with the federal government and the state of Utah May 27, which will deliver running water to many Navajo families on the Nation within Utah.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council welcomed U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT), Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson to Monument Valley, Utah May 27 for the historic signing.

The following provisions are part of the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement:

- Settles all current and future claims by the Navajo Nation for water rights within Utah;
- Ratifies the proposed water rights settlement between the Navajo Nation and the State of Utah, confirming the Navajo Nation's right to deplete 81,500 acre-feet of water per year from Utah's Colorado River Basin apportionment; and
- Authorizes approximately \$220 million for water infrastructure to provide water infrastructure, which will provide clean drinking water, to Navajo communities in Utah.

"We are located on the ancestral lands of our Diné people. Since time immemorial, Diné people have resided here and have continued to create their permanent homeland and livelihood within this region," Nez said.

"Present day, this area is home to the community of Oljato, which is one of the eight Navajo Utah communities who will directly benefit from the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Agreement. This historic occasion is the product of decades of hard work and diligence of all parties, and will benefit over 40-percent of Navajo homes in San Juan County alone. These communities located in this area of Utah, have been at the forefront of water insecurity and have managed to endured years of lack of access to clean, running water."

More than 40-percent of Navajo households in Utah lack running water or adequate sanitation. In some cases, such as in the community of Oljato on the Arizona-Utah border, a single spigot on a desolate road, miles from any residence, serves 900 people. In June 2019, Nez testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife and called upon lawmakers to pass the settlement legislation immediately.

"Water is life. Those are the words that we hear from our elders and youth so often," Lizer said. "Today's signing is the culmination of many years of work and commitment of past and present leaders. This is not about what we did as leaders, but what is to come for our people by way of this agreement between two the United States, the state of Utah, and the Navajo Nation. This agreement represents life for our Navajo people – for the generations who are yet to be born and those who continue to aspire for a greater quality of life."

Haaland recalled the challenges of growing up without running water in her home as a young child. She commended Navajo Nation and Utah leaders for their commitment to delivering more water resources to families and communities.

Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. was joined by his colleagues Rickie Nez, Mark Freeland, Charlaine Tso, Raymond Smith, Jr., as he presented Romney with an honorary blanket for his support and sponsorship of the settlement bill in the U.S. Senate. Navajo Nation Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General for the Water Rights Unit, Michelle Yazzie, hosted the event and Navajo Hataálii Avery Denny provided the opening and closing prayers.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2022/jun/07/navajo-nation-leaders-finalize-navajo-utah-water-s/>

# Bulletin Board

## Indigenous candidate runs for Utah state House

Davina Smith, Diné, is running to represent Utah's 69th district. She could be the first Navajo woman to be elected to that seat. #NativeVote22

Pauly Denetclaw, ICT

Davina Smith is headed to the general election this November. She will face Republican candidate Phil Lyman, a controversial figure who was pardoned by Donald Trump for an illegal ATV protest ride. The area he drove through is closed off to vehicles because of the presence of Native American cliff dwellings.

They will be running to represent Utah's 69th district.

Smith is from Monument Valley, Utah, where her umbilical cord was buried. She comes from a long line of Diné leadership. Her paternal grandmother was the esteemed and iconic Diné leader, Katherine Smith. During the Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute, thousands of Navajo people were forcibly relocated from their ancestral lands to either nearby communities or urban areas.

In 1979, when BIA agents came to fence off Katherine Smith's property she defended her home and land with a .22 rifle.

So, it comes as no surprise that Smith has continued that legacy by working to protect Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. Protection of the land and water is something that is very important to her platform.

She lives in Blanding with her family while her name is on a waitlist for housing. An issue that personally affects her and she is passionate about addressing it at the state level.

Other aspects of her platform are building up the local economy in district 69, which is a rural area. This district holds Arches, Zion, Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon, and Capitol Reef national parks. So, a lot of the district is federal land. She would like to see the area benefit more from tourism. Education, voting rights, affordable healthcare, and domestic violence awareness are other aspects of her platform.

Utah held its primary election on Tuesday.



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

## Making history, Ketanji Brown Jackson sworn in as Supreme Court justice

Jackson is the first Black woman to serve on the nation's highest court.

ByLibby Cathey

June 30, 2022

Ketanji Brown Jackson marked a milestone in American representation on Thursday when she was sworn in as the first Black woman in history to sit on the nation's highest court -- officially taking on the title of justice.

Chief Justice John Roberts, in a brief ceremony at the Supreme Court, administered the constitutional oath to Jackson, and retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, who Jackson clerked for some 20 years ago, administered the judicial oath.

Her husband, Dr. Patrick Jackson, held two Bibles -- a family Bible and the Harlan Bible, a King James Bible donated to the Supreme Court in 1906 -- as Jackson smiled broadly and finished repeating the oaths.

"On behalf of all the members of the court, I'm pleased to welcome Justice Jackson to the court and to our common calling," Roberts said as the other seven other sitting justices attending applauded while Jackson beamed.

Breyer shook her hand and whispered, "Congrats," before patting her on the back.

"With a full heart, I accept the solemn responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States and administering justice without fear or favor, so help me God," Jackson said in a written statement. "I am truly grateful to be part of the promise of our great Nation."

She thanked her new colleagues "for their warm and gracious welcome," and said she is "especially grateful for the time and attention given to me by the Chief Justice and by Justice Breyer."

"Justice Breyer has been a personal friend and mentor of mine for the past two decades, in addition to being part of today's official act," she wrote. "In the wake of his exemplary service, with the support of my family and friends, and ever mindful of the duty to promote the Rule of Law, I am well-positioned to serve the American people."

Breyer, in his own statement, said he's "glad today" -- for "Ketanji," "for my fellow Justices," and "for America."

"Her hard work, integrity, and intelligence have earned her a place on this Court," he



said. "They gain a colleague who is empathetic, thoughtful, and collegial... Ketanji will interpret the law wisely and fairly, helping that law to work better for the American people, whom it serves."

Roberts said at the ceremony there will be a formal investiture in the fall but the oaths Thursday will allow Jackson to undertake her duties, "and she's been anxious to get to them without any further delay."

Jackson said at the White House after her Senate confirmation, "It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments, but we've made it."

"And our children are telling me that they see now, more than ever, that here in America, anything is possible," she said.

READ AT: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/judge-ketanji-brown-jackson-sworn-supreme-court-justice/story?id=85961957>

# PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Black Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rough Rock, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Hardrock, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	27,519.84	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sanostee, NM	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	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)	Tolani Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tecnospos, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Whitecone, AZ	27,519.84	08/03/2022
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Cameron, AZ	27,519.84	07/18/2022
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Coopermine, AZ	38,836.80	07/18/2022
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coopermine, AZ	27,519.84	07/18/2022
<b>Capital Projects Management Department</b>			
Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	69,217.20	OUF
Contract Compliance Officer	Window Rock, AZ	45,226.08	07/06/2022
<b>Rural Addressing Authority</b>			
Rural Addressing Technician	Window Rock, AZ	38,836.80	07/12/2022
<b>Community Housing and Infrastructure Department</b>			
Plumber	Fort Defiance, AZ	32,635.44	07/12/2022

(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

Don't waste words on people who deserve your silence. Sometimes the most powerful thing you can say is nothing at all.



## Highlighting Census Bureau Data on Housing and Construction During American Housing Month, National Homeownership Month



Phil Thompson

June 21, 2022

Two housing celebrations this month provide an opportunity to explore the nation's housing landscape through an economic and lifestyle lens, from the number of homes built to who is struggling to pay for housing and how many homes have more than three bedrooms or bathrooms.

American Housing Month and National Homeownership Month celebrate the value of homeownership to families and communities and the ways banks and other public and private institutions can help people reach their housing goals.

And the U.S. Census Bureau provides the data needed to build a complete picture of housing activity in the United States.

For example, the latest Census Bureau numbers show that prices of new homes are rising (average sale price has topped \$500,000), housing vacancies are at or near historic lows and most new single-family homes completed had at least 3 bedrooms (877,000 of the total 970,000 new single-family homes completed).

What New Homes Look Like





## New Single-family Homes in 2021

Do you know how many new homes constructed in 2021 had four bedrooms or more?  
What about the average price of a new home sold in 2021?

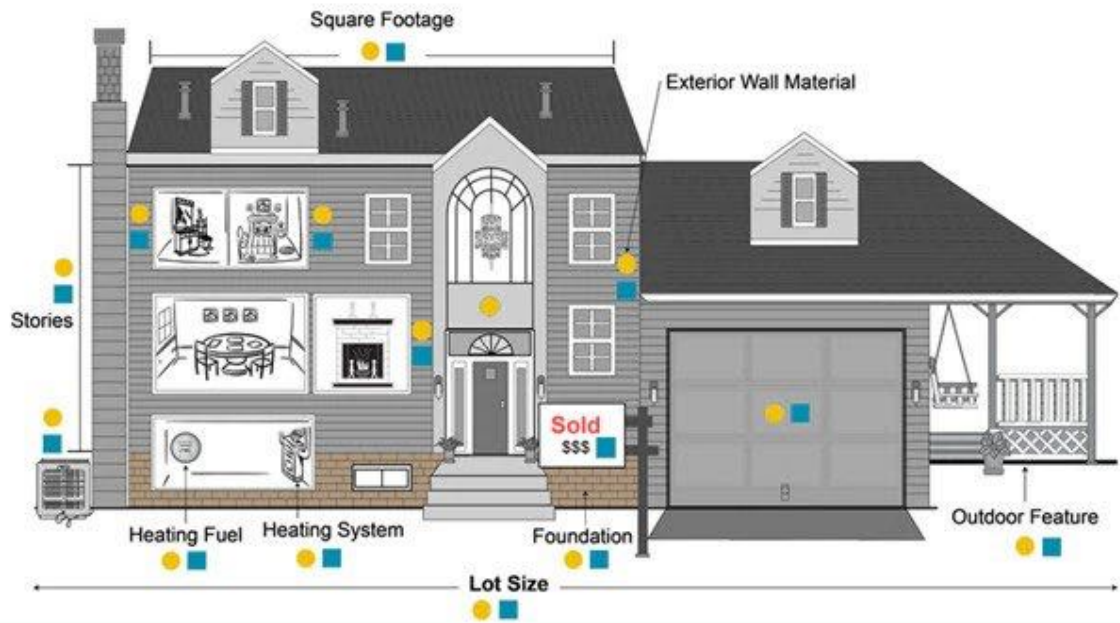
You can discover the answers by exploring the interactive house below, which highlights annual data from the Survey of Construction. All characteristics data, including estimates for new multifamily housing, are on our [Characteristics of New Housing](#) page. All estimates are based on sample surveys and are thus subject to sampling variability and nonsampling error.

### LEGEND:

- Completed
- Sold

### CHARACTERISTICS

Air Conditioning	●	■
Bathrooms	●	■
Bedrooms	●	■
Exterior Wall Material	●	■
Fireplace	●	■
Foundation	●	■
Foyer	●	■
Heating Fuel	●	■
Heating System	●	■
Lot Size	●	■
Outdoor Features	●	■
Parking Facility	●	■
Sales Price	●	■
Square Footage	●	■
Stories	●	■



U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH  
[hud.gov](#)

CENSUS.GOV

The Census Bureau's Characteristics of New Housing provides national and regional annual data on the characteristics of new privately-owned residential structures.

It includes square footage, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, type of wall material, sales prices, and even the type of fuel used to heat the home.

Of the 970,000 single-family homes completed in 2021:

927,000 had air-conditioning.

93,000 had two bedrooms or less and 444,000 had four bedrooms or more.

27,000 had one and one-half bathrooms or less and 320,000 homes had three or more bathrooms.

369,000 had a heat pump. Of these, 361,000 were air-source and 8,000 were ground-source.

895,000 were framed in wood and 71,000 were framed using concrete.

330,000 had a patio and a porch, while 87,000 had no outdoor features.

### Full House

The Housing Vacancies and Homeownership economic indicators data provide current information on the rental and homeowner vacancy rates and characteristics of available housing. It shows:

The first quarter 2022 homeownership rate was highest in the Midwest (70.0%), followed by the South (67.4%), Northeast (61.8%) and West (60.2%).

The homeownership rate in the Northeast was lower than the first quarter 2021 rate, while rates in all other regions were not statistically different from the first quarter 2021 rates.

The rental vacancy rate in the South (7.1%) was higher than the rate in the Midwest (5.9%), and both were higher than the rates in the Northeast (4.9%) and West (4.5%).

However, the rental vacancy rate in the Northeast was not statistically different from the West. The rates in the Northeast and Midwest were lower than their first quarter 2021 rates. The rates in the South and West were not statistically different from the first quarter 2021 rates.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/06/house-tour-by-the-numbers.html>



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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June 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

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(E) [coronavirus.info@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:coronavirus.info@navajo-nsn.gov)

[www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19](http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19)

    
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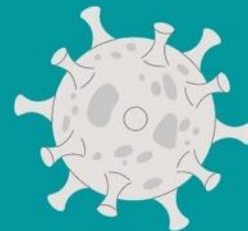


# LET'S MAKE IT FOUR



A SECOND BOOSTER  
(4TH VACCINATION)

IS RECOMMENDED FOR  
THOSE 50 YEARS AND  
OLDER OR ARE  
IMMUNOCOMPROMISED



June 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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