

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

February 2023

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Did You Know...

There is no Navajo word for love. Instead there are words to express how much regard or adoration for the person. 'ayóó anííníshní' is the best we can say to another

Events:-

February: Atsá Biyáázh - "Baby Eaglets"

February 2: Groundhog Day

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 20: Presidents' Day

March: Wóózhch'ííd - "Cry of Eaglets"

March 12: Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day

President Buu Nygren meets members of House Natural Resources Committee, will testify before Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

February 27, 2023



WASHINGTON – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met today with the House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz.

They discussed the success and initiatives that the Navajo Nation has had to expand funding for several infrastructure projects.

"From the start of my campaign, I promised to ensure the delivery of basic services to our Navajo people," he said. "I continue to stand by that commitment and will continue fighting for our people."

President Nygren discussed the Grand Canyon Protection Act with Rep. Grijalva. and said that he supports the position of the Kaibab Band of

Paiute Indians. He said he looks forward to continuing collaborative relationships with other tribes Rep. Grijalva's committee.

Congressman Grijalva introduced the bill in 2021 with Reps. Greg Stanton, D-Ariz., Rep. Rueben Gallegos, D-Ariz., former Arizona Reps. Tom O'Halleran and other co-sponsors. In 2012, the Interior Department placed a moratorium on new uranium claims for 20 years on more than one million acres near the national park.





U.S. Sens. from Arizona, Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly introduced the Senate version of the bill in 2022.

In announcing the Senate bill, Sens. Sinema and Kelly said the Grand Canyon sees more than six million visitors per year, contributes \$1.2 billion to local economies and supports more than 12,500 jobs in the region. They said tourism, rather than mining, is what powers northern Arizona's economy.

Joining President Nygren to his meeting the Rep. Grijalva was Navajo Tribal Utility Authority CEO Walter Haase who presented NTUA's progress to the congressman. NTUA is the largest multi-service utility owned and operated by a Native American tribe. It provides electricity, water, wastewater, natural gas and off-grid residential power to 186,5000 citizens spread across the Navajo Nation.

The president met with Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, chair the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. He will testify before the committee next week.

He emphasized the need for increased appropriations for Indian affair programs and stressed the dire need to increase funding for public safety.

The president referred to a 2018 BIA report recommendation that reported needs for Indian Country that required \$1 billion for tribal police officers, which is now funded at roughly 20 percent, \$1 billion for tribal courts, which is roughly funded at 40 percent, and correctional facilities for \$228 million, currently funded at roughly 3 percent.

President Nygren invited the Chairwoman Pingree to visit the Navajo Nation to see its challenges first-hand.

Additionally, the president met with Rep. Sam Graves, R-Missouri, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and ranking member Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash.

He highlighted the challenges the Navajo Nation faces to implement of its needed infrastructure projects.

The president said he remains committed to work with the Nation's federal partners and members of Congress to find ways to improve the livelihoods of Navajo people. He said he will continue to advocate for streamlined processes, unrestricted funding, and direct appropriations to tribes rather than competitive grants, which pit tribes against one another. Raymond Maxx, and Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office Executive Director Tico Charlee.



READ MORE AT: <https://www.facebook.com/BuuVanNygren/posts/pfbid02y96e6ocnQ1oq2GnUjswWNTmKfZoU3DcAM6S4cpSmSWcA3xHiwcjwHdvKSzYWfFWYI>

February 2023

Heavy Equipment Updates

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

February Delivery:

2/21/23 Sweetwater/Tolikan Chapter - Heavy Duty Truck



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTER

ASC Department to implement Chapter Supervision Training

The Resources and Development Committee (RDC) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved the most recent amendments to the Plan of Operation of the Administrative Services Center (ASC) Department in December 2022 with the leadership of the Division of Community Development management team.

In 1998, under the Local Governance Act (LGA) – section 1001(E): “Elected officials are prohibited from direct involvement in the management and operations of the chapter administration.” Section 1(B)(1) This recognizes the duties and responsibilities of chapter officials and administrators consistent with the Navajo Nation’s policy of separation of powers and checks and balances. In 2016, the ASC Plan of Operation was amended to reinsert direct local supervision and general admin direction at the chapter level.

Beginning in January 2023, under the newly amended plan of operation, the ASC Department Manager may delegate supervision to an ASC Sub-Office SPPS (Senior Programs & Projects Specialist) and specifically to supervise the Chapter Community Services Coordinator (CSC) for the 65 Non-Certified Navajo Chapters.

A Chapter Official who has received “Supervisory Training” on personnel supervision conducted by the ASC Department may be delegated to supervise the Chapter CSC upon the completion of the training. Chapter Officials delegated to supervise the CSC by the ASC Department Manager will help ensure the supervision and safety of Chapter employees. “Over the years, we have needed all supervisors at the chapters to develop and maintain the highest possible level of performance with the Chapter CSC,” stated Sonlatsa Jim, ASC Department Manager, “We will need all of our chapter supervisors to develop and maintain good employee working relationships and conduct in the Chapters as the Navajo Nation gets back to full operation after the COVID pandemic.”

Within the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual, Supervisors are responsible for utilizing and applying the personnel policies consistently in dealing with human resources issues. They are encouraged to seek advice from the Department of Personnel Management and Department of Justice on the interpretation of the Personnel Policies Manual and in addressing employment issues. Supervisors are expected to provide leadership in implementing the policies and to set positive examples for employees.

“Supervisory Training” is being planned for March 2023 with all 110 Chapters invited to participate and learn. Registration will be required and the sessions will be free at no cost. Certificates of completion will be provided from the presenters with the Department of Justice Chapter Unit, DOJ Personnel Litigation Unit, Department of Personnel Management, and the ASC Department.



For more info email sjim-martin@nndcd.org / 505-567-0398



Administrative Service Centers

5 Tips for Spring Wellness

1

DRINK MORE WATER

As the weather warms and your physical activity increases, you will need to consume more fluids. Plain water is the best hydration solution. And with some added fruit or lemon juice, it can be enjoyably refreshing. A helpful habit would be to keep a water bottle or cup nearby to remind yourself to keep drinking throughout the day.

2

LIGHTEN UP YOUR PLATE

Often during the winter we hibernate and indulge in too many comfort food meals. Spring is the perfect time to lighten our plates with lean proteins, seasonal fruits and vegetables. Choose recipes that use lots of fresh produce and have lighter cooking methods (like steaming or sauteing).

3

TRY GARDENING

Did you know gardening counts as exercise? It ranks up there with other moderate to strenuous forms of exercise, like walking and bicycling. It all depends on what gardening task you are doing and for how long. Like any other form of exercise, you have to be active for at least 30 minutes for there to be a benefit.

5

MAINTAIN REGULAR SLEEP CYCLES

Sleep seems to be one of the most underrated factors of human well-being. But maintaining regular sleep cycles is crucial to your health for a number of reasons. It is while you're asleep that your brain resets and rejuvenates itself in preparation for the following day. It is also while you rest that the body repairs micro-tears in muscles caused by intense physical activity.

4

SPEND MORE TIME OUTSIDE

Being in nature has some pretty remarkable benefits for both physical and mental health. Your body needs sunlight. Sunlight is our primary source of vitamin D, which has been shown to help ease depressive symptoms and promote a positive mood, so get your fill of vitamin D. Even just 10 or 15 minutes of sun exposure can make a big difference.

NOTICE TO CHAPTERS:

Get your Chapter Events
posted to the DCD
website!

It's easy! Just invite Tia Yazzie,
ASC's Administrative
Assistant, to your meetings!
Tia's Email is:
tia.yazzie@nndcd.org.
Tia will post your events to
DCD's Calendar.

DCD WEBSITE: NNDCD.ORG

Chapter Administration and
Chapter President will need to
coordinate info. Your event will
have more public awareness on
the DCD Website.

The screenshot displays the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development website. The header includes the organization's name and navigation links for Home, Documents, 2020 Census, CARES Act Funds, and Chapters. The main content area features a large image of a desert landscape with the text: "OUR MISSION Provide opportunities for the Navajo communities to be self-governing and self-sufficient." Below this, there are sections for "UPCOMING EVENTS" and "EXPLORE DCD DATA". The "UPCOMING EVENTS" section lists various meetings, including Chapter Meetings, Agency Council Meetings, and Community Events, etc. The "EXPLORE DCD DATA" section includes links to Chapter Land Use Plans, 2010 Census Chapter Profiles, Chapter and DCD Budgets, Navajo Profile, Section 164 Review Tracker, and Chapter Balance. A large green arrow points from the text on the right towards the "EXPLORE DCD DATA" section.

NAVAGO NATION DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OUR MISSION
Provide opportunities for the Navajo
communities to be self-governing and self-
sufficient.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 27
5:00pm Ivanbilo Chapter - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 28
10:00am Chapter Meetings
10:00am Technical Assistance Office Hours
2:00pm Agency Council Meetings
Wednesday, March 1
10:00am Community Events, Etc.
10:00am Pinedale Chapter - Planning Meeting
Thursday, March 2
9:00am White Rock Chapter - Planning Meeting
6:00pm San Juan Chapter - Planning Meeting
Monday, March 6
9:00am Pinedale Chapter - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
9:00am Baahash Chapter - Planning Meeting
10:00am Baahash Chapter - Planning Meeting
10:00am Tish Bi Kin Chapter - Planning Meeting
Tuesday, March 7
9:00am Churchrock Chapter - Planning Meeting

EXPLORE DCD DATA

CHAPTER LAND USE PLANS
2010 CENSUS CHAPTER PROFILES
CHAPTER AND DCD BUDGETS
NAVAJO PROFILE
SECTION 164 REVIEW TRACKER
CHAPTER BALANCE

About DCD Data

Bulletin Board

Standing Committees established under the 25th Navajo Nation Council



PHOTO: The 25th Navajo Nation Council taking the oath of office on Inauguration Day in Fort Defiance, Ariz. On Jan. 10, 2023

February 2, 2023

Window ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council convened for a special session and approved Legislation No. 0005-23, sponsored by Speaker Crystalyne Curley, establishing the assignments to each of the four Standing Committees. The assignments are established as follows:

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee:

1. George Tolth from Eastern Agency
2. Dr. Andy Nez from Fort Defiance Agency
3. Vince R. James from Fort Defiance Agency
4. Germaine Simonson from Central Agency
5. Helena Nez Begay from Western Agency
6. Curtis Yanito from Northern Agency

Resources and Development Committee:

1. Danny Simpson from Eastern Agency
2. Brenda Jesus from Fort Defiance Agency
3. Shawna Ann Claw from Central Agency

4. Otto Tso from Western Agency
5. Casey Allen Johnson from Western Agency
6. Rickie Nez from Northern Agency

Law and Order Committee:

1. Steven R. Arviso from Eastern Agency
2. Cheryl Yazzie from Fort Defiance Agency
3. Nathan Notah from Fort Defiance Agency
4. Herman M. Daniels from Western Agency
5. Eugenia Charles-Newton from Northern Agency

Budget and Finance Committee:

1. Norman M. Begay from Eastern Agency
2. Lomardo Aseret from Fort Defiance Agency
3. Carl Roessel Slater from Central Agency
4. Shaandiin Parrish from Western Agency
5. Seth Damon from Eastern Agency
6. Amber Kanazbah Crotty from Northern Agency

In accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 181 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation selects the Standing Committee membership subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. In determining the committee assignments, Speaker Curley explained that she reviewed resumes and considered recommendations from her Council colleagues and one chapter

resolution that was receive

"Thank you to my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for taking the next step to establish the

Standing Committees, which provide oversight authority and input on many critical issues across our

Nation. I look forward to working together with each of the Standing Committees as they begin to move

forward," said Speaker Curley.

Each Standing Committee will select a Chair and Vice Chair during their first scheduled meeting. More

information about the meeting schedules will be posted on the Navajo Nation Council's

website: <https://bit.ly/3I99XaC>.

Bulletin Board

Kayenta comes together for St. Mary's food distribution amid challenging weather

Feb 14, 2023

By Abbigaile Urioste

KAYENTA, Arizona — Despite the muddy conditions at the Kayenta Flea Market Rodeo Grounds, the St. Mary's food distribution was able to find a new home at the Kayenta Chapter House parking lot, where volunteers from various organizations came together to support the needs of the surrounding communities.



Kayenta Chapter officials and the Kayenta Unified School District played a critical role in providing necessary approvals and meeting last-minute requests. The event also saw a strong turnout of volunteers who generously gave their time and support.

Several programs and organizations were acknowledged for their support, including the Kayenta Township town manager, public works department, and animal control and support staff, the Navajo Nation Department of Health, the Kayenta Police District, EMS, fire department, Navajo County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the Arizona Department of Transportation.



Kayenta LDS Church missionaries and the Kayenta Seventh Day Adventists stepped up to help and the Gallup Community Food Bank made a significant contribution, with individuals such as Anthony Murillo, Matthew Rodriguez, Raul Rodriguez and Yesenia Zungia providing support.

The next Kayenta Community Food Distribution is scheduled for March 7 and the community is already gearing up to make it another successful event. Together, the community of Kayenta continues to make a positive impact on those in need.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/3Z1MLBc>

Groundbreaking ceremony held for Dabsání Campground in Nageezi

On Tuesday morning, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Nageezi Chapter House to mark the location for the new Dabsání Campground.

Kialo Winters, who's Ta'neeshahnii and born for Kinyaa'áanii; and Gilbert Tsinnajinnie, who's Hashtl'ishnii born for Ta'neeshahnii, co-owners of the campground, opened the ceremony as they introduced Nageezi Chapter President Ervin Chavez for the welcoming address.

The keynote speaker was Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya, visiting alongside former Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer. Current and former council delegates, including Miss Navajo 2018-2019 Autumn Montoya, Richelle's daughter, were also present.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/3Y44jLJ>

Bulletin Board

To'Hajiilee receives \$90.4 million to build a new community school away from flood plain



Feb 21, 2023 By Jeanette Dedios

Former elementary boarding school site will close and federal dollars will now go to building a new campus for tribally run K-12 program

Severe weather can force students at To'Hajiilee Community School to evacuate and lose an entire day's worth of learning because the building is in such disrepair that it's dangerous for people to be inside...

...The tribally run school serves more than 300 Navajo students and is one of the top employers in the community located more than 30 miles west of Albuquerque.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/3J2IGlo>

Navajo Power Co-Founder Joins Nygren Administration



Flagstaff, AZ, February 18, 2023

...Navajo Power co-founder and partner Tony Skrelunas announced he has been appointed by the new Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren to serve as Executive Director of the Division of Economic Development.

President Buu Nygren has previously praised Mr. Skrelunas for his "passion for solar," as well as his strong commitment towards working for projects that benefit Navajo communities and expertise in community-based development.

Prior to co-founding Navajo Power, Tony served as Director at Grand Canyon Trust for 14 years and Director of the Navajo Nation Economic Development and Government Development Divisions for 7 years. He is noted for founding the Local Governance Act, alternative forms of governance, securing federal delegation of business site leasing, and creating the local sales tax.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/3lBwwUn>

Public invited to attend meth and fentanyl awareness conference

Community organizations will host a meth and fentanyl awareness conference from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 10, at Shiprock Chapter House, U.S. Highway 64.

Conference presentations and speakers will focus on raising awareness of the dangers of meth and fentanyl. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will present at the conference, and personal testimonies will be given.

Discussions and educational opportunities will be offered by San Juan County Partnership Narcan training, Veterans Outreach Program, Capacity Builders, Farmington Police Department, Navajo Police Department, Drug Enforcement Agency Administration, Victory Life Church and behavioral health services.

The conference is free and open to the public.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/3EMkyX8>

Bulletin Board

Actors needed for upcoming film on high school basketball

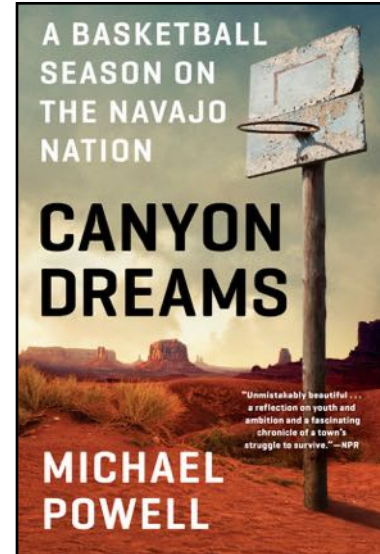
FARMINGTON – Casting calls are being held this week at both the Shiprock and Nenahnezad Chapter Houses as production continues on a soon-to-be released film about Native American basketball produced by Netflix.

Television writer and director Sydney Freeland recently signed on to direct "Rez Ball," based on the book "Canyon Dreams" written by Michael Powell in 2019 which chronicled the story of the chronicled the real-life exploits of the 2016-2017 Chinle (Arizona) High School boys basketball team.

According to a release from Alessi Hartigan Casting, which has provided background actors for recent films like Black Adam, as well as Pirates of the Caribbean, Shang-Chi, Babylon and King Kong, open casting calls will be held on Friday, March 3 at the Shiprock Chapter House between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Another casting call is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Nenahnezad Chapter House in Upper Fruitland.

Author Michael Powell's book "Canyon Dreams" is being made into a film that will be produced by LeBron James' production company.



The casting call is for actors of all ethnicities and backgrounds to come try out for roles in the film, which is scheduled to begin filming this spring.

"Rez Ball" already has attracted some big names to the project, led by the involvement of LeBron James, the future NBA Hall of Famer and four-time NBA champion. James, who recently surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the highest scoring player in NBA history, is partners in The SpringHill Company, which is producing the project for Netflix with Wise Entertainment

Read More: <https://bit.ly/3Y4DuXQ>

Delbert Anderson's Mission: Putting 'Native Sound Back Into Jazz'

FARMINGTON, N.M. — To drive the high desert roads of northern New Mexico is to navigate mountain passes, red rock mesas and dry river washes, and to spot the hogans, hamlets and sheep herds of the vast and remote Navajo nation.

Fiddling with the dial on the car radio during my time there usually generates only static. Except one day came the sound of a silken and soulful trumpet, as a station played a haunting ballad, "Narbona," with unmistakable Navajo phrasing.

The song was the handiwork of the Delbert Anderson Trio, and it felt as if it had arisen from the folds of this land.

Delbert Anderson, 36, is a Navajo jazz musician, and he and his bandmates live in Farmington, a city of 46,000 perched just east of the reservation where he was born, which is the size of the Republic of Ireland. The trio's drummer, Nick Lucero, 39, half Peruvian Quechua and half Spanish, grew up on a ranch in Colorado.

Read More: <https://nyti.ms/3Yc8BRj>



Bulletin Board

STREAMLINING: Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren targets bureaucracy in executive order to rescind travel restrictions, presidential approval requirement (2/16/23)



Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren cut tribal red tape on Wednesday.

With the signing of his first executive order of 2023, the president ended the "off-reservation" travel restriction for executive branch employees and a requirement that certain strategic planning sessions, group meetings and conferences have the president's or chief of staff's signature.

"This executive order balances efficiency and accountability," President Nygren said. "At the end of the

president's or his designee's signature to approve off-reservation travel for division directors.

With the spread of COVID-19, in 2021 Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez ordered that travel restrictions remain in place in and around the Navajo Nation and restricted all Navajo Nation employees from off-reservation travel.

Last month, the Navajo Department of Health and Office of Environmental Health and Protection Program lifted the indoor mask mandate for the general public and

day, Navajo Nation employees undergo a lengthy approval process for any of their official travel that must be enforced. It is no longer necessary for these types of travel requests to hit my desk."

As a cost-saving measure and to encourage the use of Navajo owned and operated venues, in 2004 Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., issued an executive order that required executive branch departments and programs to host their conferences, workshops and training sessions on the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly rescinded that order with his own in 2012 and required the

businesses on the Navajo Nation when they determined the risk of COVID-19 transmission was low.

Consequently, the president determined that both the off-reservation travel restriction and event approval are no longer necessary.

President Nygren's executive order states: "I hereby direct the Division Directors to ensure governmental operations remain efficient and cost-effective, and that strategic planning sessions and group meetings/conferences be conducted in such a manner that does not impede services to the Navajo People."

Travel outside the territorial boundaries of the Navajo Nation for official business was complicated by the previous orders. In some cases, on-reservation routes resulted in extreme travel times. This included travel from the Torreon/Star Lake Chapter to the Nageezi Chapter on the eastern side of the Navajo Nation and travel from Cameron Chapter to Leupp Chapter on the western side, as well as other cases. Enforcement often fell to the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller's staff, who process all executive branch official travel payments and reimbursements.

In issuing the executive order, the president's primary concern was to reduce administrative overhead caused by the previous executive orders.

The executive order applies to Navajo Nation executive branch employees and went into effect immediately upon signing.

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

American Indian Day at the New Mexico Legislature

February 3, 2023 Santa Fe, New Mexico
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

Today, on American Indian Day at the New Mexico Legislature, I reaffirmed my administration's commitment to maintaining constructive and respectful government-to-government relationships between the State of New Mexico and our 23 sovereign Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos.

I join the Legislature and all New Mexicans in recognizing the power of working together to support Native New Mexicans and acknowledging the value of the knowledge and wisdom Native communities contribute to our great state.

READ AT: bit.ly/3jszpq



Bulletin Board

Navajo Nation Council congratulates newly-appointed New Mexico Deputy Secretary of Indian Affairs Lashawna Tso

SANTA FE, N.M. — On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Crystalyne Curley congratulated newly-appointed New Mexico Deputy Secretary of Indian Affairs Lashawna Tso, a member of the Navajo Nation, during the state's legislative session in Santa Fe, N.M. on Tuesday. Indian Affairs Secretary Designate James R. Mountain announced the appointment on Tuesday.



Deputy Secretary Tso is originally from Smoke Signal, Ariz. She is Tódik'qzhi (Salt Water) and born for Ma'ií deeshgiizhinii (Coyote Pass). Her maternal grandfather is Áshjiihi (Salt People) and her paternal grandfather is Chíshí (Chiricahua Apache).

Prior to her appointment, Tso served as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, New Mexico Assistant Secretary of Indian Education, and the Chief of Staff for the Office of the Speaker under the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch. She was also a Legislative Staff Assistant for the Navajo Nation for four years prior.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation Council, it my honor to congratulate Deputy Secretary Tso. It warms my heart to see another Diné woman serve her people in a high position. With her extensive background and experience, we are confident that she will advocate for all tribal nations in the state of New Mexico. We pray for her continued success as we work together to have our voices heard at the state level," said Speaker Curley, who met briefly with Deputy Secretary Tso at the New Mexico State Capitol on Tuesday.

On Feb. 3, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham also announced the appointment of James R. Mountain, a member of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso I, as the Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs. Secretary Mountain is a former governor of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, serving from 2006-2007 and 2015-2017.

"I am pleased to welcome Ms. Tso and look forward to working with her to strengthen the Indian Affairs department's relationships and engagement with New Mexico's 23 sovereign nations, tribes, and pueblos," said Secretary designate James R. Mountain. "I have confidence in her abilities to serve this administration, this agency, and, most importantly, the 23 sovereign nations and Indigenous peoples of New Mexico."

PHOTO: Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley and New Mexico Deputy Secretary of Indian Affairs Lashawna Tso at the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe, N.M. on Feb. 21, 2023. See less

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3krAua9>

Mental health app for Native veterans receives \$3 mil grant from VA



WASHINGTON DC — An Arizona company has received a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a mental health app that aims to reduce suicide by military veterans on the Navajo Nation.

The company, Phoenix-based Televēda Systems Inc., was founded in response to co-founder Shruti Gurudanti's observation of a massively underserved healthcare problem: isolation.

"I was very close with my grandfather who suffered from age-related chronic conditions that made him homebound," said Gurudanti on the company's website. "It was a difficult time, and one that made me come to a stark realization: loneliness and social isolation are massive healthcare problems that need to be addressed. Loneliness is a major predictor of functional decline and death, and bringing individuals together can improve a society's physical, mental, and social health."

Today, the company offers weekly free virtual interactive events—mostly aimed at seniors— including bingo, art and music classes, and movement classes. They serve people in 26 states, mainly in community-based centers like senior centers and hospitals, but also from individuals' homes, co-founder Mayank Mishra told Native News Online. Televēda partners with over 125 community-based organizations to digitize events and deploy them to a larger audience.

Televēda's grant-winning project, Project Hózhó—meaning 'balance' in Diné—is a mental health app in development that's designed for and by Navajo veterans. Televēda is creating the app in partnership with Black Hills Center For American Indian Health, an organization aimed at improving the health of Natives living on reservations in South Dakota and Arizona.

The app will use traditional storytelling and talking circles in a hybrid format, with an aim to reduce veteran suicide and improve access to Veterans Affairs resources.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/3RBzi0h>

Bulletin Board

Yee Ha'ólníí Doo group achieves 501c3 status, welcomes new director

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. - Yee Ha'ólníí Doo has recently achieved 501(c)(3) status, becoming a tax-exempt organization recognized by the US government. The news comes amid the appointment of a new director Samantha Holiday, who will lead the organization in its mission to preserve and share the cultural traditions of the indigenous peoples of the Southwest.

A native of the Navajo Nation, Holiday brings a wealth of experience in cultural preservation and education, having previously worked with the Navajo Nation Museum and Navajo Cultural Preservation Office. With the recent gain of 501(c)(3) status, Yee Ha'ólníí Doo will be able to access a wider range of funding opportunities and resources to support its programs and initiatives.

Since coming on in December, she has been actively working towards promoting Navajo cultural and language preservation, food sovereignty, entrepreneurship and financial literacy and has received positive feedback from community members who are eager to get involved and share their knowledge through language classes and cultural workshops. Holiday is also collaborating with local



volunteers and educators to expand the resources and programs offered in the Monument Valley community area. "We needed someone like Samantha who is from the area and can tap into the local pool of knowledge and expertise to develop curriculums that community members are interested in," Interim Director Mary Francis said. "She's already proven herself to be an asset to the organization and we look forward to the programs that she's developing."

The 501(c)(3) designation and the appointment of Samantha Holiday marks a significant milestone for Yee Ha'ólníí Doo. With her experience and passion for the organization's mission, it is clear that she is well-equipped to lead the organization into its next chapter of growth and success. The community can look forward to even more positive impact and initiatives from Yee Ha'ólníí Doo in the future, as

they remain dedicated to promoting cultural heritage and preserving the unique traditions of the indigenous peoples of the Southwest for future generations.

READ MORE: <http://bit.ly/3m2MEqn>

Native American tapped as policy adviser to Department of the Interior

SANTA FE, N.M. - A Native American attorney who oversaw New Mexico's Indian Affairs Department has been tapped to serve as a top policy adviser to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

The department announced the appointment of Lynn Trujillo as senior counselor to the secretary Friday.

Trujillo is a tribal member of Sandia Pueblo on the outskirts of Albuquerque and has ties to Acoma and Taos pueblos. Haaland is the first Native American to serve as a U.S. Cabinet secretary.

Trujillo worked as a state Cabinet secretary for nearly four years under Democratic New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham as a crucial liaison with Native American communities during the upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initiatives during Trujillo's tenure provided increased funding for local school districts on Native American lands held in trust by the federal government - where property taxes cannot be

levied.

She also promoted the pursuit of justice for missing and murdered Indigenous people across New Mexico and agreements authorizing tribal cannabis programs to spur economic development in Native American communities. New Mexico legalized recreational cannabis sales last year amid concerns about conflicts with federal prohibition.

Trujillo previously worked as a national Native American coordinator at the U.S. Department of Agriculture on its rural development programs and as general counsel to Sandia Pueblo.

Haaland and Trujillo are both graduates of the University of New Mexico School of Law.

New Mexico overlaps with 23 federally recognized Native American communities including large portions of the Navajo Nation.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhonews.com/news/2023/feb/21/native-american-tapped-policy-adviser-department-i/>



PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
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Administrative Service Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rough Rock, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Teecnospos, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tohajiilee, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sanostee, NM	40,778.64	03/09/2023
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Iyanbito, NM	28,897.92	02/28/2023
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	40,778.64	03/01/2023
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Whitecone, AZ	28,897.92	03/03/2023
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	28,897.92	03/07/2023
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsaile, AZ	28,897.92	03/03/2023
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Round Rock, AZ	28,897.92	03/06/2023
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	28,897.92	03/20/2023
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	40,778.64	03/06/2023

Capital Projects Management Department

Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	69,217.20	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	28,897.92	03/01/2023

Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund - Division of Community Development

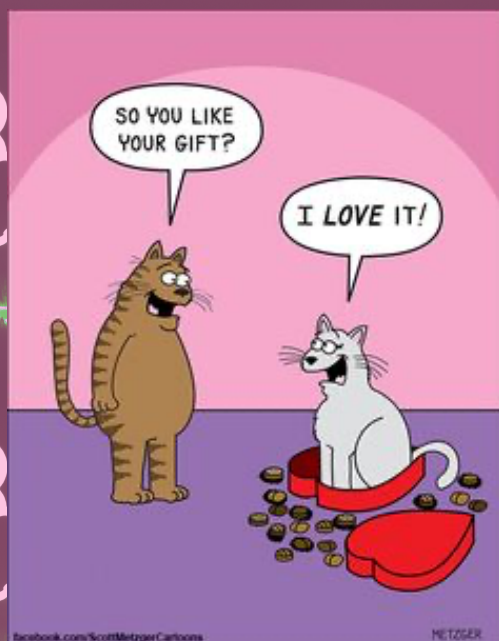
Accountant (S) (3 Pos.)	Window Rock, AZ	45,555.68	OUF
Programs and Projects Specialist (S) (5 Pos.)	Window Rock, AZ	43,555.68	OUF

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check) Closing Dates may change

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

"Let yourself be drawn by the stronger pull of that which you truly love."

Rumi

Remote Work During the Pandemic Shifted Daytime Population of Cities

Working From Home Caused a Spatial Shift in Daytime Population Away From Traditional Job Centers

February 21, 2023

Written by: Earlene K. P. Dowell

The daytime population of traditional U.S. job centers plummeted in 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic hit and lockdowns and social distancing pushed more people to work from home.

This shift to remote work in large segments of the workforce significantly impacted commuting and consumer spending at restaurants, retail outlets and the demand for commercial real estate, according to research presented during a recent webinar hosted by the U.S. Census Bureau's Local Employment Dynamics (LED).

The research used the Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) commuting data, coupled with statistics from other federal government agencies and outside organizations.

During the session that explored the impact of remote work on daytime populations in job centers, Chris Worley, a consultant with Fourth Economy Consulting, presented research showing some of these population shifts may be here to stay.

Why Spatial Shift Happens

He cited the uptick in remote work as the key reason for the shift in daytime population.

Research on paid job postings from LinkedIn revealed remote work shot up 457% from 2020 to 2021. Information and professional, scientific and technical services were among the industries most affected by the switch while retail trade, manufacturing, and accommodations and food services were least eligible for remote work.

The traditional 9-to-5 workday may have become a thing of the past. Surveys show workers expect workplace adaptations to stick, because flexible schedules and reduced commute times outweigh challenges of isolation and longer hours. According to research, employees value flexibility and believe a hybrid model is ideal.

Commuting shifts also affected where people spent their money. Fewer workers meant fewer shoppers and diners for small businesses in job hubs.

For example, workers were no longer stopping at local coffee shops for their daily lattes, dropping off their dry cleaning or gathering at their favorite lunch spots. Places with many daytime jobs but fewer residents were the most impacted by the move to remote work.

Even sales of work apparel, no longer needed when working from home, dropped.

"The sales of dress shoes in 2020 were down from the 2019 levels," Worley said. "You don't really wear them around the house. They're meant to be seen by other people."

This was also reflected in a drop in sales, value of shipments or revenue of footwear manufacturing, according to the Annual Survey of Manufactures: from \$1.8 billion in 2019 to \$1.5 billion in 2020, the first year of the pandemic. The numbers bounced back in 2021 but not up to pre-pandemic level.

The shift to remote work also pushed down demand for office space. On the upside: fewer commuters on the road reduced carbon emission and resulted in some of the cleanest air cities had seen in years, according to research.



READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/02/remote-work-during-pandemic-shifted-daytime-population.html>

I'm **Douglas White**, your CIC Steering Committee Chair and the Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Louisiana State University Shreveport. We are a university affiliated research center that provides MSA, Parish (County), and City level economic data. Two of the larger projects that the Center is currently working on are an economic dashboard for the regional area and a neighborhood data visualization for the City of Shreveport. The economic dashboard is a quarterly PowerPoint that collects and publishes economic data for multiple measures of the local economy and usually has a first component highlighting some data from a recent Census data release. For example, last month we used 2021 ACS PUMs data to highlight the lack of affordable housing for low-income rental households in our area. The goal is to take the dashboard to Tableau by the end of the year.

As the Steering Committee Chair, my goals for the network this year are to strengthen and reengage the network. I'd like to find a way to get the CICs to work with other CICS or SDCs on projects that would be of mutual benefit. I'd also like to break down the silos, so members don't feel so isolated. Please let me know if you have an idea or just need any guidance and I'll be happy to help.

More information about Doug's organization is available at: <https://www.lsus.edu/community/center-for-business-and-econ-research>

Census Bureau Releases New Educational Attainment Data

FEB. 16, 2023 — The U.S. Census Bureau today released findings from the [Educational Attainment in the United States: 2022](#) table package, which uses statistics from the [Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement](#) to examine the educational attainment of adults age 18 and older by demographic and social characteristics, such as age, sex, race and nativity.

Highlights

Age

- In 2022, the highest level of education of the population age 25 and older in the United States ranged from less than high school to advanced degrees beyond a bachelor's degree.
 - 9% had less than a high school diploma or equivalent.
 - 28% had high school as their highest level of school completed.
- 15% had completed some college but not a degree.

[Click here to explore.](#)

February 21, 2023

Volume 42

2023 Product and Event Calendar

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product scheduled for release in 2022.

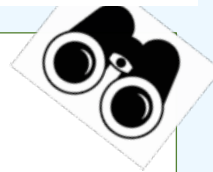
Archived Back to Data Basics Webinar Series

If you are looking to improve your data skills, Back to Data Basics is a great opportunity to learn from our experts about how to access and utilize a variety of Census Bureau data products, tools, and resources.

Training Resources

Visit the Census Bureau's [Educational Resource Library](#) for previously recorded, free training available at your convenience. The library includes presentations, recorded webinars, tutorials and other helpful materials.

Upcoming Training



Exploring Economic Data on data.census.gov

Wed Feb 22, 2023

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

In this session, you will learn how to access business data from various Census Economic Surveys and programs on our data platform, including how to select filters for best results, customizing table views, creating maps to visualize business data, and more. Our presenter will perform live demonstrations and provide you with helpful resources to help you achieve your data needs.

2022 Economic Census Informational Webinar

Tues Feb 28, 2023

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET

Our webinar introduces the 2022 Economic Census including information requested and how you, as a trusted voice, can help promote response in your communities.



Did You Miss....

Business Trends and Outlook Survey Data Release

FEB. 16, 2023 — The U.S. Census Bureau today released data from the [Business Trends and Outlook Survey](#) (BTOS), a survey that measures business conditions on an ongoing basis. The BTOS is the successor to the [Small Business Pulse Survey](#) (SBPS), a high-frequency survey that measured the effect of changing business conditions during the coronavirus pandemic and other major events like hurricanes on our nation's small businesses.

The BTOS increases the scope of the SBPS to include large single-location employer businesses (those with 500 or more employees). It provides insight into the state of the economy by providing continuous, timely data for key economic measures every two weeks.

BTOS data are representative of all single-location employer businesses in the U.S. economy, excluding farms. By providing continuous data with geographic and subsector detail, BTOS captures the impact of events like natural disasters and economic crises and assists in monitoring recovery efforts.

The BTOS sample consists of approximately 1.2 million businesses with biweekly data collection. Selected businesses are split into six panels (approximately 200,000 cases per panel) that will be asked to report every 12 weeks for a year. The Census Bureau estimates it takes the average respondent approximately six minutes to complete the survey, including the time for reviewing the instructions and answers.

[Click for more information.](#)

Coming Up!

Thurs, February 23, 2023

3-4:30 p.m. EST

[Tribal Consultation on Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A Proof of Concept](#)

New Total Business Ownership by Demographics Webpage

The U.S. Census Bureau will launch a new webpage that brings together several sources of business owner demographic data into one convenient location for data users. **Tentatively scheduled to launch February 21**

ACCESS BROADBAND Dashboard

The U.S. Census Bureau and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will unveil the first release of their joint interactive dashboard that allows users to compare U.S. state, county, and census tract-level maps displaying broadband availability and adoption statistics to maps of select social and economic indicators. **Late February/early March**

The 2022 Economic Census is Underway

The U.S. Census Bureau began mailing out invitations to respond to the 2022 Economic Census beginning January 31. Businesses will be asked to submit their responses by **March 15**.

Recognizing 2023 Black History Month

Written by: Robert L. Santos, Director

The news surrounding the tragic death of Tyre Nichols on the heels of mass murders in California cast a veil of solemnity on the advent of Black History Month. These events touch everyone in our nation and illustrate that our work to advance human dignity and realize the equality for which we all strive is still a glimmer on the horizon. But it is and always has been achievable.

I've always professed that I am a work in progress. So are you. And so is our country. In recognition of Black History Month, let's commit to doing our part to help our nation come together as the great nation we aspire to be.

[Click here to continue.](#)



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



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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AVOID A VISIT TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM THIS WINTER SEASON

- **Get vaccinated.**
- **Wear a mask indoors and in crowded areas.**
- **Wash your hands with soap and water.**
- **Be aware of our surroundings.**

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS

EMERGENCY KIT ESSENTIALS



WATER



MEDICATION



FIRST AID KIT



FLASHLIGHT AND BATTERIES



JUMPER CABLES



WINTER CLOTHES AND EXTRA SOCKS



ROADMAP



HEALTHY SNACKS



PLASTIC BAGS

ADOT

MAJOR IMPACT SNOWSTORM

Travel Impacts

- Avoid travel if possible
- Dangerous travel conditions
- Consider chains or 4x4 vehicle
- Pack a winter survival kit

Winter storm warnings or localized blizzard warnings

Snowfall rates: 1-2" +/-hour



February 2023



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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