

July 2023

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

July 2023

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## Did You Know...

The Crow Canyon Petroglyphs are the most extensive and well-known collection of 16th, 17th and 18th century Navajo petroglyphs (carved rock art). Hundreds of images of animals, humans, supernatural beings, and other images such as corn plants and bows and arrows can be found, carved on south and east-facing canyon walls. Archaeologists believe the panels may have been associated with ceremonies, as many of the images are similar to Navajo ceremonial sand paintings..

[Read More](#)

## Events:-

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

- July 4: Independence Day
- July 5: National Sylvia Day
- July 8: National Denise Day
- July 11: World Population Day

### August: Bini'anit'ááts'ósi - "Small Harvest"

- August 14: Code Talkers Day

## A Heartfelt Farewell to a Loyal Colleague and Friend, Mr. James Adakai



On a warm and joyful Thursday, July 27th, 2023, the Division of Community Development gathered to bid a happy farewell to one of its most dedicated and loyal employees of the Navajo Nation. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. James Adakai, accompanied by his loving wife, who were the esteemed honorees of the celebration. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and camaraderie as staff members joined in to express their fond wishes and appreciation.

Mr. Adakai's journey with the Navajo Nation began after an inspiring internship with Coconino County in Arizona. His decision to work with the Navajo Nation was deeply influenced by the support he received in completing his college degree. For 31 remarkable years, Mr. Adakai devoted his time and expertise to the Community Development Block Grant Program within the Community Housing & Infrastructure Department. As the grant writer and planner, he was instrumental in securing millions of dollars in direct services for housing clients across the Navajo Nation, leaving an indelible impact on the lives of many.

During the heartfelt celebration, Mr. Adakai revealed his plans for retirement, but fate had other delightful plans in store for him. He was offered a position with a federal agency he had collaborated with for many years—the Federal Housing and Urban Development Program. His passion for this program and the joy of working with it prompted him to accept the new role, embarking on a fresh chapter in his remarkable career.



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Throughout his tenure with the Navajo Nation, Mr. Adakai demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, unwavering dedication, and an unyielding sense of loyalty to his colleagues and the organization. In 2020, he was promoted to the esteemed position of CHID Program Manager and later served as Deputy Director, showcasing his immense capabilities and commitment to the cause. While Mr. Adakai's departure is bittersweet, the Division of Community Development staff is incredibly grateful for the time they spent with him. To show their deep appreciation and love, the staff presented him with a Chief Pendleton Blanket, a Plaque of Service, and other personal gifts from

As we bid farewell to Mr. James Adakai, let us hold onto the cherished memories and the valuable lessons he shared with us. The Navajo Nation and the Division of Community Development are forever grateful for his unwavering service, and we wish him all the best in this exciting new chapter of his life. May the road ahead be filled with joy, prosperity, and the fulfillment of his dreams.



each department he had overseen as a manager. The gifts symbolize the gratitude and respect they hold for him in their hearts.

As the farewell celebration came to a close, well-wishers expressed their genuine admiration for Mr. Adakai and wished him nothing but happiness and success in his future endeavors. While his presence will be missed within the Division of Community Development, the legacy of his dedication and leadership will continue to inspire and guide his colleagues for years to come.





# CPMD Project Update

## Huerfano Community Cemetery

The Huerfano Chapter undertook a significant project to establish a new cemetery for their community. As the local church cemeteries were full and no longer accepting burials, the chapter decided to fence a ten-acre tract of land to create the Huerfano Community Cemetery, situated east of the chapter house. This new cemetery was included in their Land Use plan and became a part of their Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP).



Photo by Dickson Preferred Services (DPS)

Phase 1 of the project was successfully completed in June 2023. This phase involved leveling the cemetery grounds and constructing a commercial-grade 6 ft chain link fence around the 10-acre cemetery perimeter. The result was a well-prepared and secure space for burials.

For the second phase of the Huerfano Community Cemetery, the chapter has set its sights on enhancing the facilities further. Their plans include building a paved parking lot and establishing a designated area to honor veterans with a Veteran's Memorial Monument.



Photo by Rory Jaques

In 2019, the Huerfano Chapter sought funding for the project from the New Mexico Legislators. Fortunately, the project received funding through the New Mexico Capital Outlay, providing the necessary financial support to move forward with their plans.

Mr. Rory Jaques, representing CPMD, played a crucial role in overseeing the project as the Project Manager, collaborating closely with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. As for the construction work, the project contractor chosen was Dickson Preferred Services (DPS), a Navajo Nation Priority One Vendor.



Photo by Rory Jaques

The Huerfano Chapter was well aware that years ago, the N.N. Council had passed legislation encouraging each community to complete its own community cemeteries. Understanding this, the chapter took the initiative, planned the project diligently, secured the required funding, and worked closely with CPMD to bring the project to completion.



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# 100 Years of Navajo Nation Council

State of the Nation Address and Centennial Celebration

On July 17th, 2023, the Navajo Nation celebrated a momentous event—the State of the Nation Address by President Nygren at the Window Rock Council Chambers. This address coincided with the Centennial Celebration of the Navajo Nation Council.

The entire community was invited to join in the festivities, with various programs and departments setting up booths to provide direct assistance to the public. It was a wonderful opportunity for community members to engage with government services and resources. Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, the President's Office hosted a delightful barbecue, fostering unity and joy.

Notably, the ARPA FRF team and CHID staff actively engaged at their booths, offering valuable information and support to the public.



The State of the Nation Address and Centennial Celebration showcased pride, collaboration, and the shared commitment to the Navajo Nation's progress and welfare. It reinforced the strong bond between the government and its people and celebrated the remarkable journey and achievements of the Navajo Nation over the past century.

The Division of Community Development was honored to be part of this historic occasion and looks forward to continuing its dedication to serving the community and promoting growth and prosperity for the Navajo Nation.





# Tech Tips

## Four Ways To Protect Yourself From Phishing



### 1. Protect your computer by using security software.

Set the software to update automatically so it will deal with any new security threats.

These updates could give you critical protection against security threats.

### 2. Protect your cell phone by setting software to update automatically.

Some accounts offer extra security by requiring two or more credentials to log in to your account. This is called multi-factor authentication. The extra credentials you need to log in to your account fall into three categories:

1. something you know — like a passcode, a PIN, or the answer to a security question.
2. something you have — like a one-time verification passcode you get by text, email, or from an authenticator app; or a security key
3. something you are — like a scan of your fingerprint, your retina, or your face

Multi-factor authentication makes it harder for scammers to log in to your accounts if they do get your username and password.

### 3. Protect your accounts by using multi-factor authentication.

Back up the data on your computer to an external hard drive or in the cloud. Back up the data on your phone, too.

### 4. Protect your data by backing it up.




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## Administrative Service Centers

### Department Updates:

**July 21, 2023** - Ms. Patricia Begay (Ft. Defiance ASC Senior Programs & Projects Specialist) is delegated the Administrative Services Center's Department Manager while the position remains vacant. The view DCD's Delegation Memo [Click Here](#)




 **The Navajo Nation** **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*  
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

DCDA-M23087

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** DCD Departments and Programs  
All Concerned


**FROM :**   
Calvin Castfello, Division Director  
Division of Community Development

**DATE :** July 21, 2023

**SUBJECT :** **Delegation of Authority for Administrative Service Centers**

Effective today, Ms. Patricia D. Begay is delegated the authority as the Department Manager II for the Administrative Services Centers. She is responsible for managing and overseeing the department. This delegation is effective until further notice.

Your assistance and cooperation is appreciated.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**  
  
Patricia D. Begay, Senior Programs and Projects Specialist  
Administrative Service Centers  
Division of Community Development

c



## Administrative Service Centers

### ASC STAFF UPDATES

#### **Derek Echohawk, Delegated Senior Programs & Projects Specialist at Ft. Defiance ASC Office**

On July 28, 2023 Derek Echohawk, Administrative Services Officer for the Fort Defiance ASC sub office, was delegated the Senior Programs & Projects Specialist for the Fort Defiance ASC sub office while Patricia Begay is delegated the ASC Department Manager.

#### **Ms. Elizabeth Kuipers joins the Window Rock ASC as an Administrative Services Officer (Temp)**

The ASC department continues to face demands in providing assistance to the 110 chapters across the Navajo Nation. Ms. Kuipers is welcome reinforcement for the ASC team.

She will be assisting the chapters in the Ft. Defiance Agency.

#### **Floranda Dempsey, Promoted to Community Services Coordinator at Jeddito Chapter**

Congratulations are in order for the ASC's former Office Specialist, Floranda Dempsey. On Monday, July 31, 2023, Floranda began a new chapter as the Community Services Coordinator for the Jeddito Chapter House.

Floranda has been employed with the Administrative Services Centers Dilkon ASC sub-office since March of 2018. While assisting the chapters in her capacity as an Office Specialist, Floranda took opportunities to expand her knowledge of the Chapters and Local Government.

ASC wishes her well on this next challenge.

### WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

July 2023 came with the following new additions at the Chapters.

*Sabrena Eley*

#### **Churchrock Chapter**

*Accounts Maintenance Specialist*

*Adam James*

#### **Iyanbito Chapter**

*Accounts Maintenance Specialist*

*Alvin Billie*

#### **Manuelito Chapter**

*Community Services Coordinator*

*Timothy Begay*

#### **Sawmill Chapter**

*Community Services Coordinator*

*Clarence Chee*

#### **Klagetoh Chapter**

*Community Services Coordinator*





# CDC Hot Weather Tips

## Stay **Cool**



### **Wear Appropriate Clothing:**

Choose lightweight, loose-fitting clothing.

### **Stay Cool Indoors:**

Stay in an air-conditioned place as much as possible. If your home does not have air conditioning, go to the shopping mall or public library—even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat. Call your local health department to see if there are any heat-relief shelters in your area.

### **Keep in mind:**

Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, they will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off. Use your stove and oven less to maintain a cooler temperature in your home.

### **Wear Sunscreen:**

Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool down and can make you dehydrated. If you must go outdoors, protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher 30 minutes prior to going out. Continue to reapply it according to the package

## Stay **Hydrated**



### **Drink Plenty of Fluids:**

Drink more fluids, regardless of how active you are. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.

Warning: If your doctor limits the amount you drink or has you on water pills, ask how much you should drink while the weather is hot.

Stay away from very sugary or alcoholic drinks—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.

### **Replace Salt and Minerals:**

Heavy sweating removes salt and minerals from the body that need to be replaced. A sports drink can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.

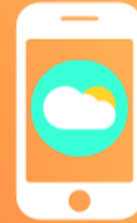
If you are on a low-salt diet, have diabetes, high blood pressure, or other chronic conditions, talk with your doctor before drinking a sports beverage or taking salt tablets.

### **Keep Your Pets Hydrated:**

Provide plenty of fresh water for your pets, and leave the water in a shady area.



## Stay **Informed**



### **Check for Updates:**

Check your local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips and to learn about any cooling shelters in your area.

### **Know the Signs:**

Learn the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses and how to treat them.

[Click Here](#) for more info

### **Monitor Those at High Risk:**

Although anyone at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others:

Infants and young children  
People 65 years of age or older  
People who are overweight  
People who overexert during work or exercise  
People who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure, or who take certain medications, such as for depression, insomnia, or poor circulation



Visit the CDC Website  
for more Hot Weather  
Tips: [Click Here](#)



# 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](mailto:tia.yazzie@nndcd.org). Tia will post your events to DCD's Calendar.

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

DCD WEBSITE: [NNDCD.ORG](http://NNDCD.ORG)

The screenshot shows the website's header with the Navajo Nation logo 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".

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Monday, February 27</b>
5:00pm - Iyamblo Chapter - Regular Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>
10:00am - <b>Chapter Meetings</b>
10:00am - Technical Assistance Office Hours
2:00pm - <b>Agency Council Meetings</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>
10:00am - Pinedale Chapter - Planning Meeting
<b>Thursday</b>
9:00am - White Rock Chapter - Planning Meeting
6:00pm - San Juan Chapter - Planning Meeting
<b>Monday, March 8</b>
9:00am - Pinedale Chapter - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
9:00am - Baahaaal Chapter - Planning Meeting
10:00am - Baahaaal Chapter - Planning Meeting
10:00am - To'ish Bi Kin Chapter - Planning Meeting
<b>Tuesday, March 7</b>
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



# Bulletin Board

## Navajo Nation declares state of emergency due to extreme heat

By Shondiin Silversmith

- With temperatures hitting well above 110 degrees in the southern parts of Arizona, the Navajo Nation in the northern parts of the state is also feeling the effects of the heat waves.
- Parts of the Navajo Nation have experienced above-average temperatures throughout the summer, with some parts reaching or nearing 100-degree temperatures.
- For instance, Chinle, Arizona hit a high of 97 degrees on July 26, according to the National Weather Service.
- The extreme heat has prompted officials on the Navajo Nation to declare a state of emergency. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management passed the declaration on July 25, and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Vice President Richelle Montoya signed in agreement on the same day.
- The declaration allows the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management to seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments and local or private agencies to address emergency and disaster-related situations caused by the extreme heat.
- In the declaration the Navajo Nation states that “heat extreme events present risks to human health and well-being of people, ecosystems, agriculture, property, livestock, pets, infrastructure, homes, roads, heat dries up sources of surface water for wildlife, the potential for wildland fires increase, and existing drought conditions become exacerbated from extreme heat conditions.”
- Heat puts human health, and the well-being of people at risk, and one of the primary methods of combating heat is having access to cool spaces.
- “Air-conditioning is the number-one protective factor against extreme heat, which is an essential health resource for vulnerable populations,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention .
- That may be hard for some families living on the Navajo Nation because there are still households within it that don’t have access to electricity.
- Approximately 15,000 families on the Navajo Nation live without electricity, according to Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.
- Not having access to cooling methods leaves those living on the Navajo Nation at risk of heat-related illnesses, including heat stroke and heat exhaustion.
- “Extreme heat events can be dangerous to health – even fatal,” according to the CDC. “Small children, the elderly, and certain other groups, including people with chronic diseases, low-income populations, and outdoor workers, have a higher risk for heat-related illness.”
- The Navajo Nation’s state of emergency declaration indicates that the Navajo people, communities and government have some adaptive measures to mitigate extreme heat. However, these adaptive measures vary, and additional cross-sectoral collaboration is needed to meet the burgeoning necessity to address heat-related impacts, risks and vulnerabilities.
- Through the state of emergency, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management is tasked with finding the appropriate Navajo Nation entities to begin the collaboration process with outside entities for additional resources to address the extreme heat.
- The commission plans to work to identify the most impacted areas



on the Navajo Nation and coordinate implementing heat health action plans.

One ecosystem impacted by the heat includes the forests surrounding the Navajo Nation, from pest infestations to an increased risk of wildfires.

Frankie Thompson, a program manager with the Navajo Nation Forestry, said his main concern during heat waves is the fire risks.

The Navajo Nation has not had any major fires this season, Thompson said, but fire restrictions are usually set in place by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Thompson said they monitor humidity, temperatures and wind because they are the main factors in wildfires.

Another concern during the heat is pests that start to attack the trees. Thompson said they’ve been dealing with ips, a beetle that burrows its way into the bark of a tree, where it will lay eggs and slowly start to kill the tree.

Having an influx of ips results from the heat and the ongoing drought the Navajo Nation is experiencing. Thompson said the extreme heat causes the drought, the drought weakens the tree, and the trees cannot push the ips out of their bark with their sap.

“There is no natural protection for the tree,” Thompson said.

That is one way the heat has contributed to the loss of trees in the forest, but Thompson said that the hotter it is during the day, the longer the trees are holding their breath, and they’re unable to breathe until it starts to cool down.

The Navajo Nation has been impacted by the drought for years, and Thompson said the effects of the heat have been seen before, and people will notice the change in the trees over time.

“It’s happened before,” he said, and seeing the overall damage on a forest will take years of observation, not just from this drought period.

The Navajo Nation’s state of emergency declaration will remain in effect through Aug. 31 unless it is extended, modified, or terminated by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management.

READ AT: <https://bit.ly/43TgNbY>

# Bulletin Board

## Shiprock middle school principal earns statewide honor



By Mike Easterling, Farmington Daily Times  
July 26, 2023

Unlike most children, Pandora Mike knew what her career path was going to be before she even hit her teens.

At the age of 11, Mike had just lived through a traumatic incident, and her father, a kindergarten teacher, thought it might help her process the experience if the two spent some time together. So he invited her into his classroom to read to his students.

She wound up spending the whole day by her father's side, watching him work and interact with his students while they discussed life and the challenges it can present.

"From that day on, I knew I was going to be a teacher," she said.

For the last 33 years, Mike has made good on that aim, serving as an educator at various levels, not just instructing students in the classroom, but serving as a district director, assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent and college instructor. But it was her current posting — serving as the principal at Tse Bit Ai Middle School in Shiprock, part of the Central Consolidated School District — that led to her being named the 2023 NM National Distinguished Principal of the Year by the New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals.

Mike was presented with the award during a ceremony last week at an Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque. She will be honored again during an event in October in Washington, D.C., along with all the other statewide winners.

According to a news release from CCSA, the award is presented each year to an outstanding educational leader who has demonstrated excellence in their profession and made significant contributions to their schools, communities and the education system as a whole. The release indicates Mike, who is Navajo, is the first indigenous principal to receive the award, both in New Mexico and across the nation.

"It's a milestone, of course, in my career," Mike said on July 24 as she prepared for the beginning of the fall semester at Tse Bit Ai Middle School, where she expects to welcome an anticipated 403 students this semester. "Being an indigenous woman leader, it's especially important. As I see it, it

really paves the way for young educators to see the glass ceiling can be broken. There is more potential we can all reach."

Mike said she was encouraged to do that by her parents, both of whom were teachers. In fact, it was her father, who died in 2015, who was instrumental in helping her decide on a focus for her thesis when she was pursuing her doctorate.

"You know, when you get two teachers together, you talk school, you talk shop," she said, explaining that she and her father had the same habit.

Mike was considering some other ideas for her thesis, but when she began describing a high-achieving school she recently had learned about, he encouraged her to perform a case study of the institution, doing a deep dive into what had allowed its students to succeed at such a high level.

"I still live by his philosophy, and it really holds true," she said, explaining that her father believed every child has three teachers in their life — their parents; the folks they encounter on a daily basis at school, including teachers, custodians, cooks, bus drivers and administrators; and the environment in which they live their lives, both at home and at school.

"As indigenous children, that really speaks to the Diné philosophy," she said. "He taught me the interdependency between environment and people. We learn from one another, and we impact one another."

As she moved up the career ladder in education, Mike came to realize she was able to wield a good deal of influence not just on her teachers but on the atmosphere at her school, as well. That left her with no doubt she had made the right career choice as an 11-year-old.

"I love what I do," she said.

In addition to her parents, Mike said she often has turned to medicine people for counsel over the course of her career. She said a conversation she had with one of those folks early in her career, in the 1990s, made an especially strong impression on her.

After revealing to Mike that he could see strong leadership qualities in her, the man told her that each child is born with different gifts and that it is a teacher's job to be ready to nurture the development of those gifts when they make themselves known, like a seed blossoming into a plant.

"You never know when a student will show you their gift," she said he told her. "You have to be ready. You can be too busy, too stressed out, too tired."

Mike said she has resolved to be ready for those moments throughout her career, no matter what other circumstances she may be facing.

"People show you their gifts at all times," she said. "That's the beauty of this world."

Mike said she aspires to be a servant-leader, one whose goal is to do everything she can to support her students and teachers in the classroom. She said that takes the form of building a well-structured educational model with clear processes in which everyone knows their role and performs it well — especially herself.

"My students can expect that, from Day One, they will know who I am as a mother and grandmother," she said. "They will learn my plan, which I present at an assembly."

That first day of school is something Mike has experienced dozens of times in her career, but it never fails to get her excited.

"I still get butterflies on the first day," she said. "I think it's important to kick off the year right. So I'm looking forward to that."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3Qe8wMG>



# Bulletin Board

## Jeddito native serves with joint strike fighter squadron in U.S. Navy

LEMOORE, Calif. – Cpl. Joseph Ambrose, a native of Jeddito, Arizona, serves the U.S. Marine Corps assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 125. The command is a joint strike fighter squadron located aboard the U.S. Navy's largest master jet base.

Ambrose joined the Marine Corps five years ago. Today, Ambrose serves as a power line mechanic.

"I joined the Marine Corps to get ahead in life. I wanted to show my family that I could do something big," said Ambrose.

Growing up in Jeddito, Ambrose attended Holbrook High School, graduating in 2018. Today, Ambrose relies upon skills and values similar to those found in Jeddito to succeed in the military.

"I learned that if you start something, you need to finish it," said Ambrose. "When you get a job in the Navy, it's important that everyone does their best to support the mission."

These lessons have helped Ambrose while serving with the Marine Corps.

Members of VFA-125 fly and maintain the F35-C Lightning II, a combat-ready fifth-generation fighter.

According to Navy officials, the F-35C is designed with the entire battlespace in mind, bringing transformational capability to the United States and its allies. Missions traditionally performed by specialized aircraft (air-to-air combat, air-to-ground strikes, electronic attack, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) can now be executed by a squadron of F-35s.

For the first time in U.S. naval aviation history, radar-evading stealth capability comes to the aircraft carrier deck. The F-35C carrier variant sets new standards in weapon system integration, lethality, maintainability, combat radius and payload that bring true multi-mission power projection capability from the sea, according to Navy officials.

This year commemorates 50 years of women flying in the U.S. Navy. In 1973, the first eight women began flight school in Pensacola; one year later six of them, known as "The First Six," earned their "Wings of Gold." Over the past 50 years, the Navy has expanded its roles for women to lead and serve globally and today our women aviators project power from the sea in every type of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aircraft. Our Nation and our Navy is stronger because of their service.

With 90 percent of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to trained sailors and a strong Navy.

"Our mission remains timeless - to provide our fellow citizens with nothing less than the very best Navy: fully combat ready at all times, focused on warfighting excellence, and committed to superior leadership at every single level," said Adm. Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations. "This is our calling. And I cannot imagine a calling more worthy."

As a member of the Marine Corps, Ambrose is part of a world-class organization focused



on maintaining maritime dominance, strengthening partnerships, increasing competitive warfighting capabilities and sustaining combat-ready forces in support of the National Defense Strategy.

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

## New Mexico delegation backs \$3.2 million FCC Navajo Nation broadband investment

(The Center Square) - The New Mexico congressional delegation is welcoming funding from the Federal Communications Commission to help a school in New Mexico.

U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Luján, and U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernández, all Democrats, support the FCC providing \$3.2 million from its Emergency Connectivity Fund to the Pine Hill School of the Ramah Navajo Chapter of the Navajo Nation.

The fund provides schools and libraries with money to buy technology equipment and broadband connections for remote learning and off-campus use.

"Connecting more families from the Ramah Chapter on the Navajo Nation to high-speed internet is exactly what investing in the American people looks like. I'm pleased to welcome this funding as we continue the work of growing our economy by growing our middle class," Heinrich said. "Access to reliable, high-speed internet is a necessity for students working on their homework assignments, families who need access to telehealth services, and so much more. Expanding broadband access to all of our communities is one of the surest ways to boost our economy, improve education outcomes, and strengthen public safety."

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 created and funded the fund, which Luján supported. The program provides a combined \$7.17 billion to eligible schools and libraries, including Tribal libraries.

"In this digital age, students need access to internet connectivity inside and outside the classroom," Luján said. "As Chair of the Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband, bridging the digital divide for rural and Tribal communities is a top priority. My staff and I have worked extensively with Pine Hill and other schools around New Mexico to close the homework gap and provide connectivity wherever students learn. This significant investment will help ensure students and teachers are connected to the tools needed to succeed."

Leger Fernández concurred, adding that she sees broadband access as vital to the Navajo Nation improving its education quality.

"Fast and reliable internet connections are a public utility. Students and teachers rely on high-quality broadband more than ever to learn and work," Leger Fernández said. "This funding will help make sure that Navajo Nation will not be left behind in the age of online learning. When we invest in our bright young students, we invest in our future."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3Knu13f>



# Bulletin Board

## After decades of use in a coal power plant, a New Mexico reservoir will help bring water to the Navajo Nation

By Curtis Segarra

July 20, 2023

SHIPROCK, N.M. (KRQE) – A reservoir with over 800 million gallons of active water storage has changed hands from a power company to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The water will be funneled to the Navajo Nation and is just part of a larger transition away from coal power.

As northwestern New Mexico has shifted away from the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station, utility operators have been seeking ways to remediate the now-closed power plant facilities. In a presentation to New Mexico lawmakers, the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) says demolition work and coal removal are ongoing, but the plant's water reservoir has been sold to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and has been renamed the Frank Chee Willetto Reservoir, after a World War II Navajo Code Talker.

"We're very excited to be able to help the Navajo Nation clean water efforts," Tom Fallgren, the principal generation advisor for PNM, told KRQE News 13. "It's very much a win-win."

The reservoir was built in the early 1970s. For years, fresh water was diverted from the San Juan River into the reservoir to be used for cooling at the power station. Now, a new pump will move water from the reservoir to a treatment plant about 10 miles to the southwest before connecting to taps in the Navajo Nation.

"It's to help provide a reliable and sustainable water supply to Navajo homes and businesses and provide opportunities for economic development," says Bart Deming, the construction engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation's Four Corners Construction Office. The idea is to "hopefully get to a point where the Navajo people no longer have to haul water to their homes, as more than a third of Navajo homes still have to do."

The project will help bring water to over 200,000 people, Deming says. And having the reservoir connected via pipelines to Gallup, Standing Rock, and nearby communities will help provide a consistent supply in times of drought.

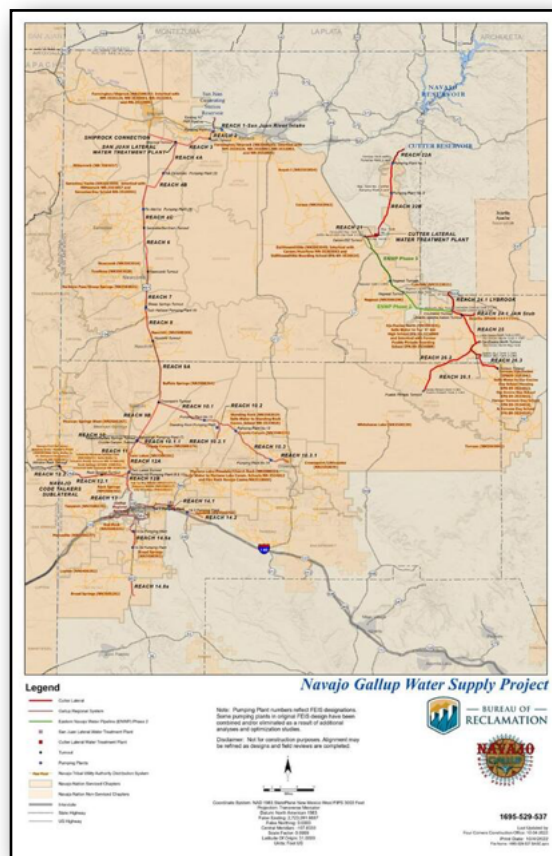
"It's going to bring some substantial benefits," Deming says, "providing a consistent water quality to the water treatment plant as opposed to when we pump directly off the [San Juan] river."

Deming says it also can store enough water to serve the Navajo Nation project for three weeks. So, if there's a chemical spill in the San Juan River (such as the Gold King Mine spill), the intake pump can be shut off and residents will still have water thanks to the reservoir.

All the benefits do come at a cost, not just financially, but also in terms of time. "The downside," Deming says, is "it's going to require an extension of the [water delivery] project by five years. We originally were set to be completed in 2024."

Still, Deming says stakeholders agree that the benefits will be worth it in the long term.

Meanwhile, other equipment and materials at the closed San Juan Generating Station are on their way out. PNM has chosen a contractor for the demolition of the power plant, they've already sold off some equipment, and coal removal is ongoing, according to PNM's latest report to lawmakers. PNM expects the site's towering stacks to be demolished sometime in 2024. Eventually, they plan on taking everything down to the foundation.



Replacement renewable energy facilities will take over the plant's energy production. The San Juan Solar 1 facility will be the closest to the closed powerplant site. The facility is expected to make 200 megawatts of solar electricity and have 100 megawatts of storage, according to PNM. Already, some workers that have been displaced by the transition away from coal have received payouts to help ease the change.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/47dMwaH>



PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
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	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Teecnospos, 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)	Tsayatoh, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Oak Springs, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coyote Canyon, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	40,778.64	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sawmill, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsaile, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Hardrock, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Low Mountain, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tohajiilee, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Thoreau, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Iyanbito, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Cameron, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coppermine, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Coppermine, AZ	37,333.44	OUF
Administrative Services Officer (S)	Kayenta, AZ	47,481.12	8/10/2023

**Capital Projects Management Department**

Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	72,683.28	OUF
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**Community Housing and Infrastructure Development**

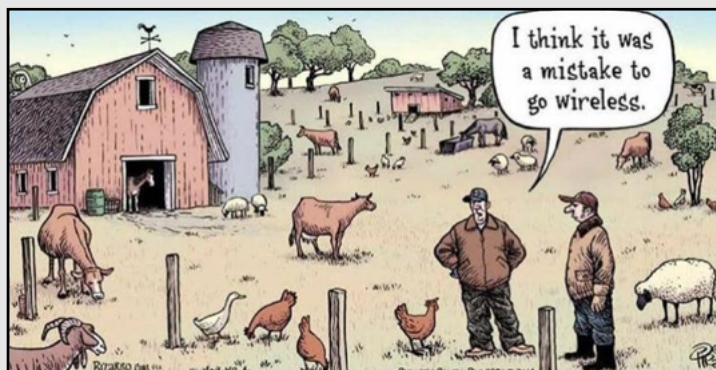
Carpenter (S) (2 Pos )	Fort Defiance, AZ	34,264.08	8/10/2023
Construction Inspector (S)	Fort Defiance, AZ	43,555.68	8/10/2023

(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**



## The Fourth of July: 2023

June 01, 2023

Press Release Number CB23-FF.05

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As we celebrate this Independence Day, we reflect on how our Founding Fathers enshrined in our Constitution the importance of data as a vital tool for measuring America.

Most of the following facts are possible thanks to responses to U.S. Census Bureau censuses and surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we continuously measure our people, places and economy.

Did You Know?

### **2.5 million**

The estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation in July 1776.

Source:

Historical Statistics of the United States: 1789-1945

### **333,287,557**

The nation's population on July 1, 2022.

Source:

Vintage 2022 Population Estimates

### **56**

The number of signers of the Declaration of Independence.

It is also worth noting that:

John Hancock, a merchant by trade, was the first signer. In 2021, more than 1 million business establishments nationally with paid employees were in the retail trade industry like Hancock.

Source:

2021 County Business Patterns, Table CB2100CBP

Benjamin Franklin, who represented Pennsylvania, was the oldest signer of the Declaration of Independence at age 70. Pennsylvania had a resident population of 12,972,008 on July 1, 2022. Edward Rutledge of South Carolina was the youngest signer at age 26. South Carolina had a resident population of 5,282,634 on July 1, 2022.

Source:

Vintage 2022 Population Estimates

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2023/fourth-of-july.html>

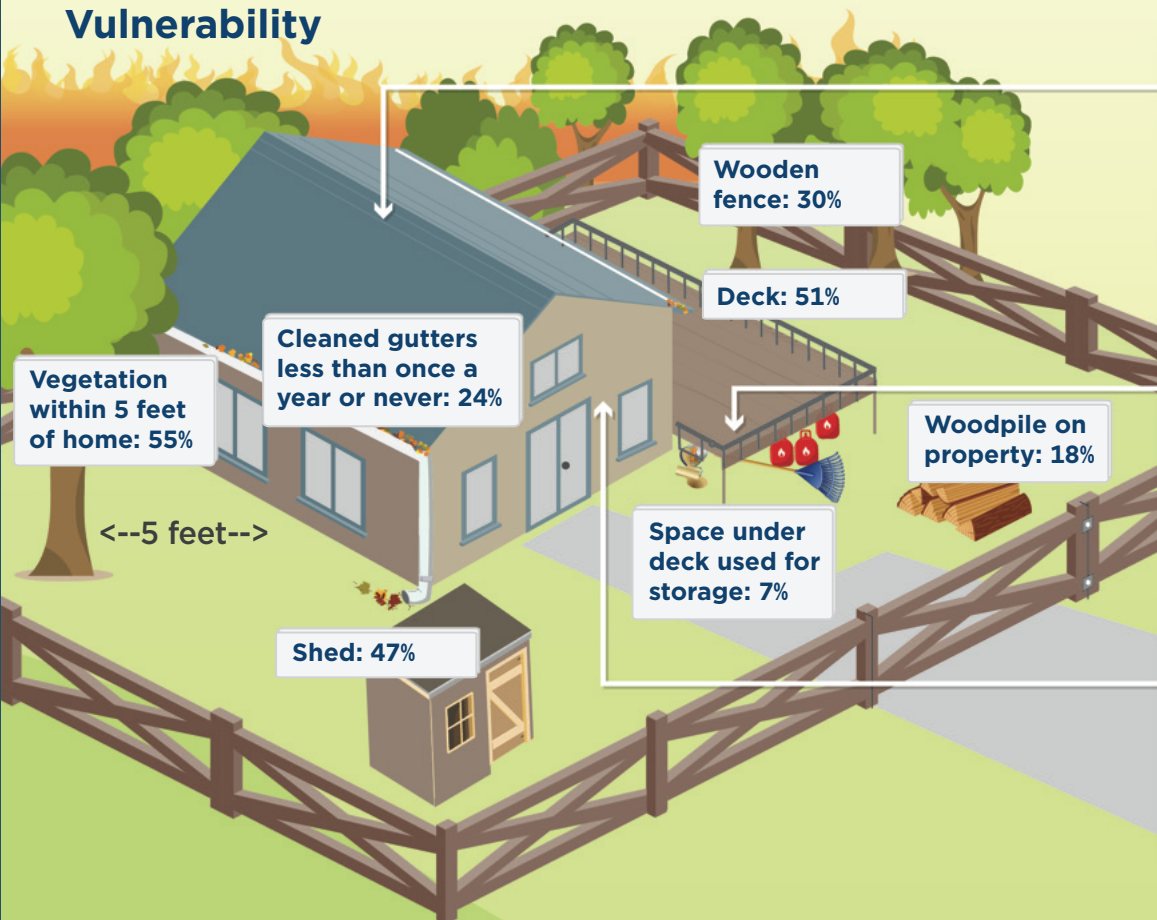


# Wildfires and Home Vulnerability

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is comprised of small noncontiguous geographic areas located all across the nation. WUIs are defined by the U.S. Forest Service as areas where homes and other structures are in or adjacent to undeveloped wildland vegetation prone to a large scale wildfire, thereby posing a significant threat to human life or property. About 37 million 1-unit structures (38%) in the United States are located inside the WUI.

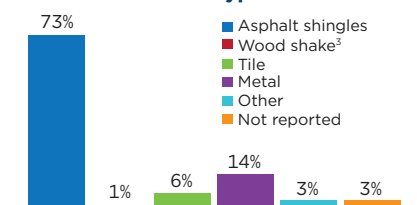
The 2021 American Housing Survey (AHS), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), collected data on the external characteristics of 1-unit structures in the WUI. These data are intended to improve our understanding of the vulnerability of the American housing stock to wildfires and other spreading fires. HUD worked with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) on the development of the wildfire risk questions and in determining the geographic areas in the United States that received the questions.

## Percentage of 1-Unit Structures<sup>1</sup> Located in the WUI With Wildfire Risk Factors Impacting Home Vulnerability

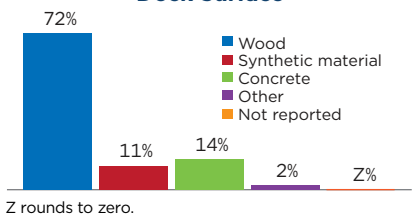


Combustible materials, such as wood, can increase a home's vulnerability.

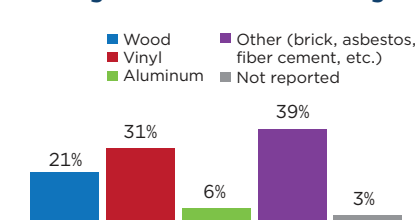
### Roof Type<sup>2</sup>



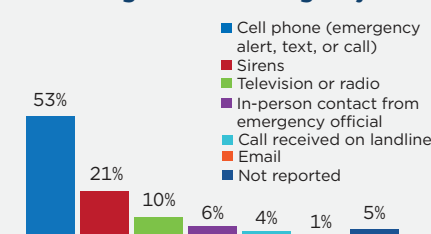
### Deck Surface<sup>4</sup>



### Siding or Exterior Wall Covering<sup>2</sup>



### Expected First Source of Alert During Wildfire Emergency



<sup>1</sup> Commonly known as single-family homes, 1-unit structures can house individuals, single families, or multiple families.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about fire resistive construction materials, refer to <[www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseHowToPrepareYourHomeForWildfires.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseHowToPrepareYourHomeForWildfires.pdf)>.

<sup>3</sup> Wood shake refers to a material of wood roofing.

<sup>4</sup> Includes only 1-unit structures in the WUI with a deck.

Note: Percentages include not reported values. Information on confidentiality protection, methodology, sampling and nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <[www.census.gov/ahs](http://www.census.gov/ahs)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2021 American Housing Survey.



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

# *Schedule Now!*

## Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings

### Topics

- Review the *Title 26 LGA - 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

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