

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

December 2023

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Did You Know...

Diné string games

According to Navajo oral traditions, string games originated with Na'ashjé'ii Asdz[áá], Spider Woman, or sometimes Grandmother Spider, to simulate a spider weaving its web.

The stories teach children – as well as their parents – patience and discipline, he told the participants.

<https://www.buffalofire.com/string-games-tribal/>

Events:

December: Ní'ch'itsoh- "Big Winds"

December 10: Human Rights Day

December 13: National Day of the Horse

December 21: Winter Solstice

December 24: Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

December 31: New Year's Eve

January: Yasnilt'ees - "Melting Snow"

January 1: New Year's Day

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

New Senior Citizen Center in Pueblo Pintado Chapter Completed



The new Senior Citizen Center in Pueblo Pintado Chapter, New Mexico, represents a significant milestone. This center is the result of combined efforts between New Mexico and the Navajo Nation to support the senior population in the area.

Funded with \$2.8 million from New Mexico's Capital Outlay funds, administered through the Navajo Nation Division of Aging and Long Term Care Support (DALTCs), this project aims to offer crucial assistance to elderly residents. Rena Murphy, the Senior Center Supervisor, oversees daily operations and is gearing up for the scheduled grand opening on January 18.

Andy Thomas from the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development's Capital Project Management Department has been instrumental in managing the project. His expertise ensured the successful progress of construction, bringing the center close to completion.

This new center aligns with the Navajo Nation's program, providing meals, transportation, and supportive services to Navajo elders across eighty-one (81) senior citizen centers. It will also offer recreational, social, educational, and health activities tailored for seniors in the community.

Beyond its physical presence, the center embodies a collective commitment to supporting the elderly. It aims to be a hub for social connections and essential resources for seniors in Pueblo Pintado and nearby areas.

The forthcoming grand opening isn't just a ceremony; it represents a significant step in the community's efforts to ensure the welfare of its senior citizens.

Ms. Rena Murphy remarked, "This project, it was a long time coming." She said that once Mr. Andy Thomas started working on the project and with the help of the Chapter CSC, Ms. Janice Arthur, it started to come together and become a reality. Arviso Construction was the primary contractor.

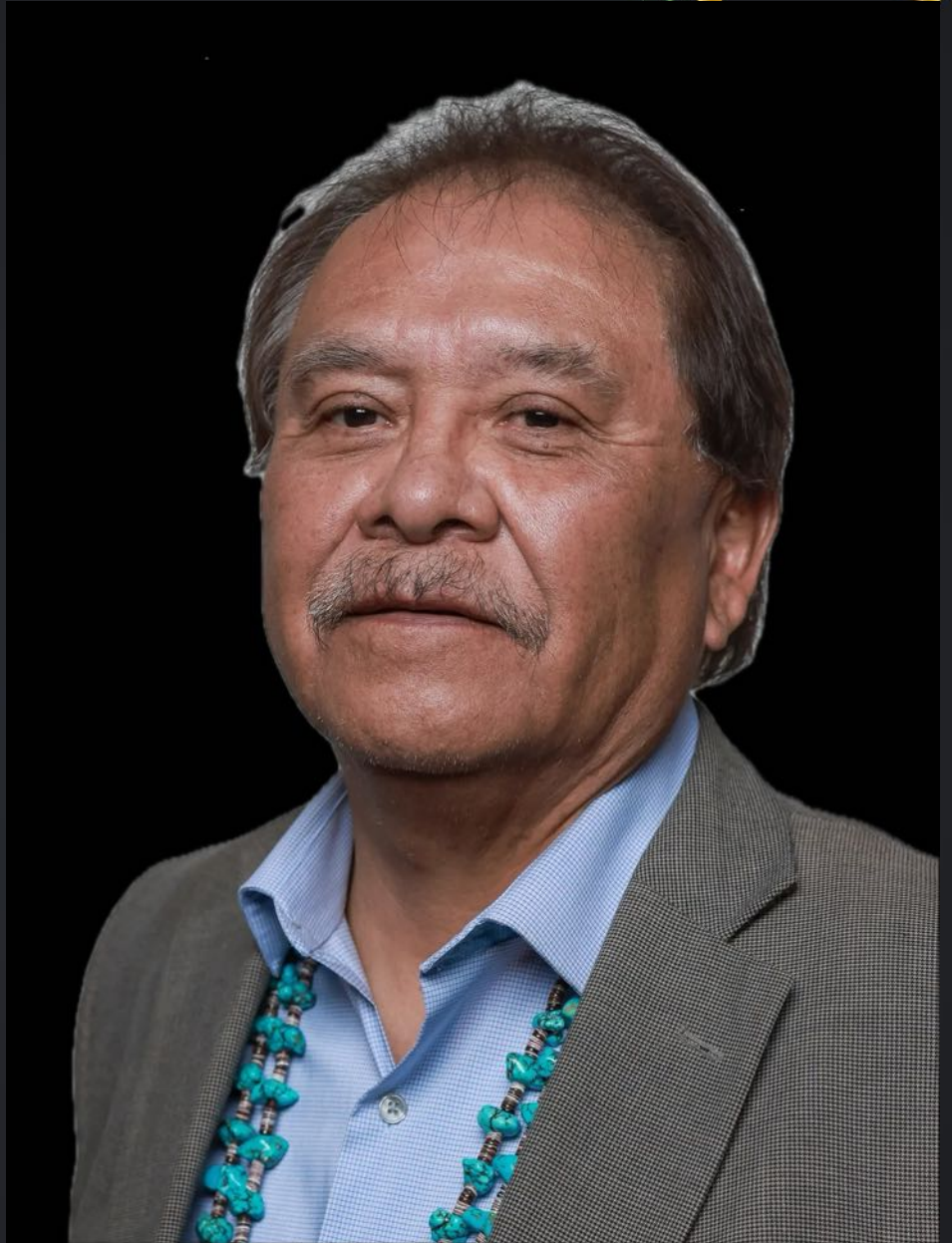
December 2023

Message from the Director:

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, I extend warm wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Together, we've worked hard to improve our communities, ensuring prosperity for all families. As the holiday season approaches, it's a time for us to appreciate our blessings.

I offer my sincere wishes to everyone during this holiday season. Your hard work is recognized, and I urge you to spend valuable time with your families. I deeply appreciate everyone's dedication to the Navajo Nation. As we approach the new year, I hope you enjoy meaningful moments and laughter with loved ones this Christmas."

Arbin Mitchell
Executive Director
Division of Community Development



MERRY

Christmas



December 2023



Christmas



December 2023

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Troubleshooting



Restart the device



Check power connections



Update software



Clear cache and cookies



Check internet connection



Check hardware components



Seek technical support

December 2023



OPVP Winter Activities-

Expressing gratitude for the beautiful 110 handmade chapter ornaments, each crafted with care by the talented individuals: Dawnelle Begay, DCD ARPA, Delilah Bill, DCD Admin, Saraphina Curley, CHID, Arionna Chicarello, ASC, Laci Begay, FD ASC, Judith Willoughby, CPMD and Lisa Jim, CPMD. Your dedication and creativity shine through each ornament, showcasing our chapters with warmth and artistry.



Thank you to All CHID HIP Staff, Dwayne Waseta, CPMD Mgr, Andy Thomas, Sony Franklin, CPMD for assistance. Thanks Jaron & ASC staff for sitting in the cold. And all staff not named - appreciate you all.



December 2023

OPVP Light Parade



December 2023

COMMUNITY HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 28, 2023 POWERLINE PROJECT | ST. MICHAELS, AZ

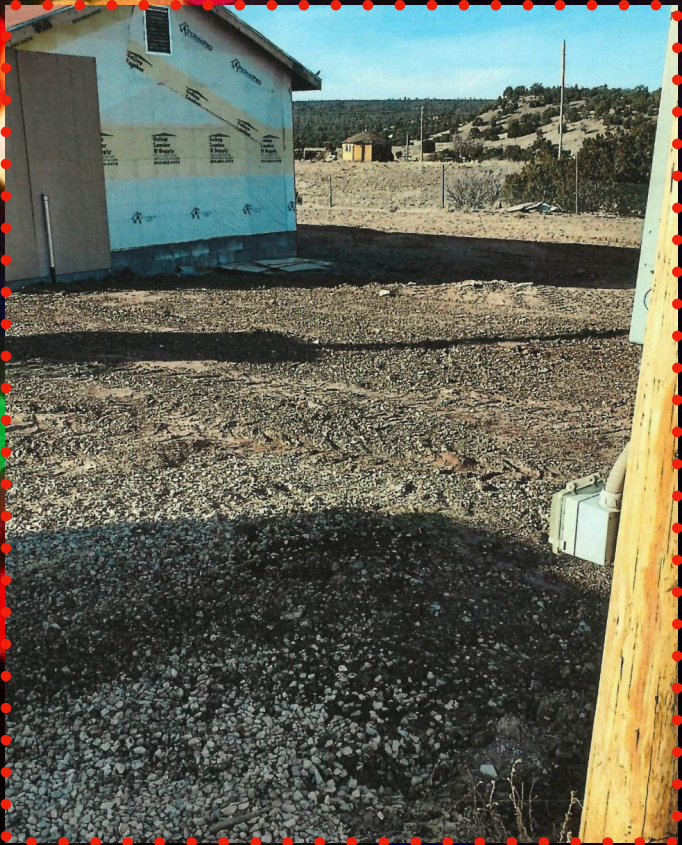
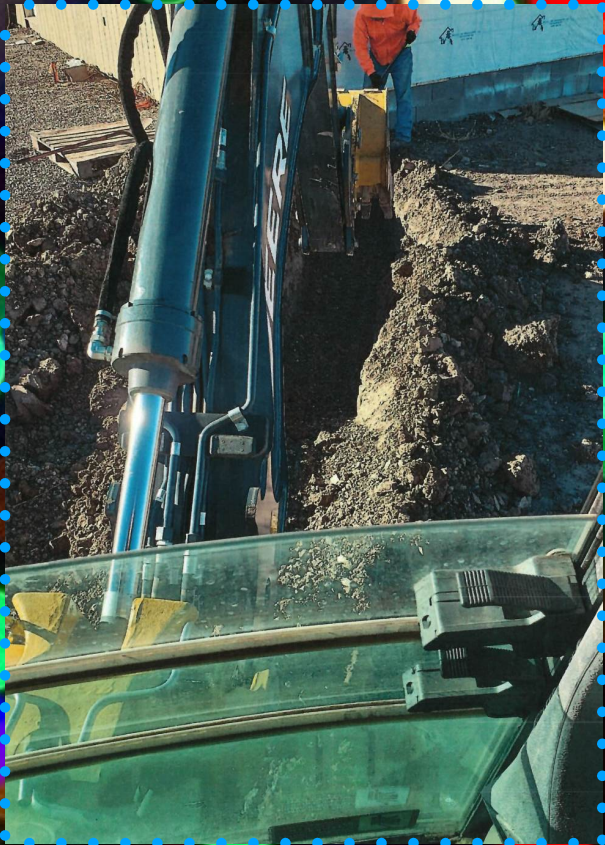
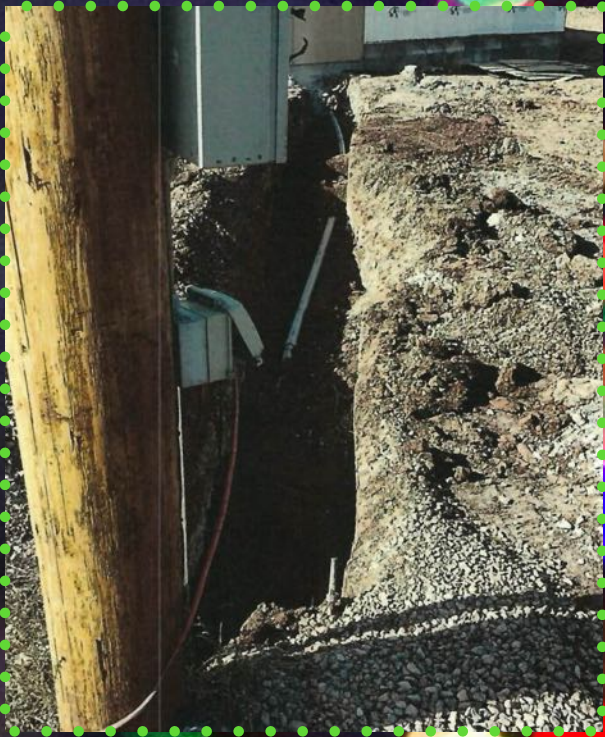


Photo credit: Sean Pioche, Jeffrey Goodluck

December 2023

Administrative Services Centers

December 2023 Department Events:

In December 2023, the Administrative Services Centers proudly hosted a series of department events. Our local offices remain committed to organizing events that offer Navajo Nation Chapter houses opportunities to enhance their understanding and skills in fiscal responsibility and chapter operations. These initiatives underscore our dedication to supporting and empowering communities through valuable knowledge-sharing sessions. Stay tuned for more enriching events in the future!

December 7, 2023	Shiprock ASC	ASC Office	Year 2023 941 Reconciliation Work Session presented by Danielle Redhouse, ASO
December 6, 2023	Shiprock ASC	Upper Fruitland Chapter	Fixed Assets Training presented by Eliza-Beth Washburne, SPPS
December 6, 2023	Shiprock ASC	Upper Fruitland Chapter	"Fixed Assets Training and Work Session Presenter Eliza-Beth Washburne, SPPS"
December 6, 2023	Tuba City ASC	Birdspring Chapter	Meeting with JSRa and the chapter regarding their ARPA Projects
December 6, 2023	Tuba City ASC	Leupp Chapter	Meeting with JSRa and chapter regarding their ARPA Projects from 1:00pm to 5:00pm
December 5, 2023	Shiprock ASC	ASC Office	Year 2023 941 Reconciliation Work Session presented by Danielle Redhouse, ASO
December 4, 2023	Kayenta ASC	Teec Nos Pos Chapter House	Presented the 2023 -2024 Carryover Budget

December 2023

Administrative Services Centers

Staff Updates:

On Monday, December 18, 2023 Cecelia Toledo, was promoted to the Torreon Chapter's Community Services Coordinator position.

Join us in celebrating Cecelia's remarkable journey with the Torreon Chapter since June 2019! Throughout her tenure, Cecelia has showcased unwavering commitment and impressive capabilities in delivering essential services to the Torreon Star Lake Community. Her dedication and skill have left a lasting impact on our community, making her an invaluable asset to our team. We're proud to have Cecelia on board, contributing to the betterment of Torreon Star Lake.

Congratulations Cecelia!



Welcome New Employees!

***George John, Community Services Coordinator
Indian Wells Chapter***

We're excited to share that on December 4th, 2023, George John assumed the role of Community Services Coordinator Temp at the Indian Wells Chapter House. Mr. John has a history of involvement with the Indian Wells Chapter, offering valuable assistance during the period when the CSC position was vacant. With prior expertise in fiscal management and extensive experience in grant management and writing, Mr. John brings a wealth of knowledge to the team. The Indian Wells Chapter eagerly anticipates the positive impact George will bring to the community in his new capacity. Welcome aboard, George!

***Valerie Nelson, Office Specialist
Chinle ASC***

We are delighted to announce that on December 4, 2023, Valerie Nelson became a valuable member of the Administrative Services Centers Chinle Office as their Office Specialist. Ms. Nelson brings with her experience from her previous role as an office aide at the Jeddito Chapter and is currently pursuing studies in Accounting at the Navajo Technical University. The Department is eagerly anticipating the positive contributions she will make to the Chinle ASC Team, and we warmly welcome her to our office.

Bulletin Board

Stick a nav pin in it: 3,113 Navajo Nation homes now have a Utah address

By David Condos
Published December 18, 2023

It's easy to take a home address for granted. But without it, lots of everyday things become complicated or nearly impossible.

Registering to vote. Getting online deliveries. Making sure a fire truck can find you.

That was the reality for many in the Navajo Nation before the Rural Utah Project's Daylene Redhorse began going door to door in southeast Utah with her little blue address plates in 2019. Four years later, the advocacy organization has assigned addresses to 3,113 homes, essentially all the residences that lacked one in the region.

"I am just overjoyed," Redhorse said. "I think everybody deserves a physical address."

The initial goal was to make sure Navajo voters were registered to vote in the correct precinct. Redhorse noticed that her registration mistakenly placed her within a district north of Bluff even though she lived south of town. She soon realized a lack of address impacted much more than voting rights. When her mother had a stroke, for example, there was no easy way to tell the 911 dispatcher how to get an ambulance there.

"We lost a whole hour. My mom lost speech, mobility," Redhorse said. "I don't wish that upon anybody."

Many of the roads in this part of the Navajo Nation – which covers more than 1 million acres in Utah's southeast corner – don't have official street names, she said. So residents would typically just give out directions based on mileposts and nearby landmarks rather than providing a physical address. That system would work fine if they were talking to someone who lived in the area, but it could cause glitches with government databases.

So the Rural Utah Project gave each home a plus code. That's a number system developed by Google that pinpoints a building's location based on longitude and



RURAL UTAH PROJECT'S DAYLENE REDHORSE FASTENS A PLUS CODE ADDRESS PLATE TO A HOME IN SOUTHEAST UTAH'S NAVAJO NATION. (COURTESY OF RURAL UTAH PROJECT)

latitude rather than a street name and house number.

She's already seen the plus codes improve people's lives. One man is now able to get in-home dialysis. School liaisons can make more visits to students' families. An auto mechanic no longer needs to drive 45 miles to pick up parts that can be shipped to his house. Other residents reached out to her to get a plus code for filing taxes, getting insurance or registering a vehicle.

Daylene Redhorse drives along a dirt road to reach homes in a remote part of southeast Utah. Many of the streets on the Navajo Nation don't have official names, she said, so it

had historically been tough for emergency services and delivery drivers to find them.

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission public information officer Tiffany Bah Charley has seen plus codes work first-hand in rural New Mexico, where her code has helped deliveries find their way to her home.

"I believe it's going to be a great benefit for the Navajo people," she said. "It'll make a lot of difference."

The project's experience installing the codes on a large scale in Utah could help inform the Nation's ongoing efforts to address more buildings in rural Arizona and New Mexico, too.

"It'll be a good, positive impact for them to utilize plus codes to start marking where chapter houses are, where community centers are, where some schools are and where residents reside," she said.

Beyond the immediate benefits, Redhorse of the Rural Utah Project said, her ultimate goal with this project is to remind the state of Utah how many Navajo citizens live here. Some residents live so close to Arizona and so far from the nearest Utah city, she said, they've often used a mailing address at an out-of-state post office.

Now that more of her neighbors are registered to vote in the right Utah district, she said, the next step is to increase Navajo representation in local politics.

"I'm not going to stop bugging people about elections. I'm not going to stop bugging people about voting," she said. "Now I'm going to go and start bugging people about running for office."

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



DAYLENE REDHORSE DRIVES ALONG A DIRT ROAD TO REACH HOMES IN A REMOTE PART OF SOUTHEAST UTAH. MANY OF THE STREETS ON THE NAVAJO NATION DON'T HAVE OFFICIAL NAMES, SHE SAID, SO IT HAD HISTORICALLY BEEN TOUGH FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND DELIVERY DRIVERS TO FIND THEM. (COURTESY OF RURAL UTAH PROJECT)

Bulletin Board

Infrastructure grant coming to Navajo communities

December 18, 2023

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded San Juan County \$59,800,000 in grant money for U.S. Highway 64 improvements.

The grant was made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continues to deliver funds to make sure New Mexicans have safe, reliable roads and infrastructure," U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernández said in a press release. "I'm glad the Department of Transportation listened to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation when we asked for the necessary funds to repair Route 64 – a route the Shiprock community relies on every day and had been in dire need for repairs."

The entire New Mexico congressional delegation, all Democrats, voted for the law.

The project aims to widen and improve 21 miles of the U.S. Highway 64 corridor that runs through Navajo communities, including Shiprock and Hogback.

Improvements include 12-foot lanes in each direction, rumble strips, paved shoulders of up to eight feet and better bus pull-outs.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation is expected to install safety elements around Navajo chapter houses such as pedestrian crossing, turn lanes and improved lighting.

Additionally, the state is expected to replace four bridges, and install fiber optic and cabling installation and about 50 corrugated metal culverts on the corridor.

"This major federal investment will help us make vital safety improvements on the roads and bridges that thousands of Shiprock residents rely on to access health care,



education, and economic opportunities," U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich said in the press release. "These roads are badly in need of repair. Thanks to the historic investments that President Biden and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation delivered through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are finally getting this done."

This is the second year of the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program which invests \$2 billion through 2026 to improve rural infrastructure such as tunnels, bridges, highways and flexible transit services to Tribal and rural areas. The program can do so through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, according to a press release about the program.

San Juan County was one of 18 grantees announced Tuesday. For more information about the Program visit the U.S. Department of Transportation website.

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

Navajo Pottery-Inspired Ceramic Water Filter

A low-cost device uses locally sourced materials for water treatment.

Billions of people around the world lack access to clean, drinkable water. A research team led by engineers at The University of Texas at Austin has developed a new water filtration system using locally sourced materials for members of the Navajo Nation in the Southwest.

The team is using a simple method of lining clay pots with pine tree resin collected from the Navajo Nation and incorporating tiny, silver-based particles that can be used to purify water to make it drinkable. "A small amount of resin can provide control over nanoscale silver release and thus reduce unnecessary loss of the active component, while preserving the silver surface from getting passivated," said Navid Saleh, Professor in the Fariborz Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering and one of the leaders on the project.

"Ceramic water filters are produced commercially in many parts of the world. The use of locally sourced materials, low-cost of the device, and the promise of pottery to bridge the trust gap of the Navajo hold tremendous promise," said Saleh.

Inspired by Judy Pasternak's book *Yellow Dirt*, Saleh brought his students on a field trip to the Navajo Nation in 2012. They learned about the consequences of Uranium mining during the '40s-'80s from this area, particularly those related to contamination of water with heavy metals and radionuclides. They also were exposed to the Navajo cultural norms and ethos and realized how pottery is central to their physical and spiritual world. One of the students in that field trip, Stetson Rowles III, who also happens to be a potter, became the lead researcher in this project.

Rowles and Saleh together came up with the idea to utilize pottery as the gateway in earning trust of the Navajos while addressing a part of the water contamination challenge with nanomaterials. They worked with a third-generation Navajo potter, Deanna Tso, gathered a pinyon pine tree resin from the region, used their centuries-old technique of using the resin in pottery, and infused nano-scale silver to disinfect water. All they have to do is pour water through the clay pots, and the coated pottery removes bacteria from water and generates clean, drinkable water.



FROM LEFT: COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING PROFESSOR NAVID SALEH; NAVAJO POTTER AND RESEARCH PAPER CO-AUTHOR DEANNA TSO; AND STETSON ROWLES III, A UT PH.D. GRADUATE AND CURRENT FACULTY MEMBER AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY. (IMAGE: THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN)

This Navajo pottery-inspired ceramic water filter can cheaply disinfect water, while bridging the trust gap between Navajos and the non-Native world. "Making water filtration technology cheap doesn't solve all the problems and making it effective doesn't solve everything either. You have to think about the people you are making it for," said Saleh.

According to the researchers, the Navajo Nation has a history of mistrust of outsiders, and that makes it less likely that people there would adopt a new technology made entirely by others. Using pottery, working with the community, and relying on local materials were important to the effectiveness of this project.

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

Bulletin Board

Vet tech travels to Navajo Nation, other tribal communities and treats 500 pets a weekend

By Kathy Ritchie

Published: Monday, December 18, 2023

Updated: Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Accessing veterinary care in rural parts of Arizona can be difficult. It's even more challenging in some tribal communities like the Navajo Nation, which is spread over 27,000 square miles of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. KJZZ talked to one vet who is bringing care to these places.

Lacey Frame is registered veterinary technician and the field clinic manager for the Banfield Foundation, a nonprofit that serves pets. She says there are a lot of barriers to getting vet care in places like the Navajo Nation and on Hopi land in northern Arizona.

"There's not enough doctors for the amount of dogs and cats that there are, you know, rising costs, access to reliable transportation," Frame said.

Frame says her group sees pets that haven't been spayed or neutered or suffer from ticks. So, they partner with other nonprofits to provide critical care.

"Surgery wise, we will do probably between 80 to 100 spay and neuter surgeries in one day. And then, as far as wellness or illness care, we'll see another few hundred in a day," Frame said.



Vet techs with Banfield Foundation provide vet care in rural Arizona, including on the Navajo Nation.

By the end of a weekend, she says they might see upwards of 500 animals.

Read at: <https://bit.ly/3NB6Avq>

Celebrating Success: Lawrence John's New Role as Capital Outlay/Tribal Infrastructure Funding Manager!

New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

December 21, 2023

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Lawrence John on his well-deserved promotion as the Capital Outlay/Tribal Infrastructure Funding Manager!

Lawrence has been an invaluable member of our team, showcasing exceptional dedication and expertise in his previous role as the Tribal Infrastructure Fund/Capital Outlay Administrator. His tireless efforts and commitment have not only enriched the team but have also contributed significantly to the growth and success of our projects.

With several years of experience within our agency, Lawrence has consistently demonstrated a profound understanding of tribal infrastructure needs and a passion for fostering positive change within our communities. His strategic vision, combined with his deep-rooted connection as a member of the Navajo Nation, uniquely positions him to excel in this new leadership role.

As we embark on this exciting chapter together, we have full confidence in Lawrence's ability to lead the Capital Outlay/Tribal Infrastructure Funding team with integrity, innovation, and a commitment to excellence. This accomplishment is a testament to his hard work, perseverance, and unwavering dedication to advancing the goals of our agency.



Please join us in congratulating Lawrence John on this remarkable achievement! We look forward to witnessing the continued impact he will undoubtedly make in his new position.

Best wishes for continued success, Lawrence!

Read At: <https://bit.ly/41QYd57>

Bulletin Board

"JUSTICE STATIONS" COMING TO SAN JUAN & MCKINLEY COUNTIES

From the Administrative Office of the Courts
December 4, 2023



"By using a justice station, people can conduct business with a state court when they have no internet connection at their homes or lack reliable cellular phone service," said Eleventh Judicial District Chief Judge Curtis Gurley. "The justice stations offer more convenience for people who otherwise would need to go to Gallup, Farmington or Aztec for a court hearing."

Newly installed "justice stations" on the Navajo Nation and communities in northwestern New Mexico provide virtual access to magistrate court hearings, lessening the need for people to travel to a courthouse.

The justice stations allow the public to use an easy-to-navigate computer to appear remotely in a hearing conducted by one of the magistrate courts in San Juan and McKinley counties, such as in a case involving a traffic violation.

Justice stations are available for use at the Rock Springs Chapter House, the Beclabito Chapter House, Octavia Fellin Public Library in Gallup, and the Gallup Magistrate Court. They also will be in place by the end of December at the Aztec Public Library, the Bloomfield Public Library, the Farmington Public Library, and the People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) shelter in Farmington.

"By using a justice station, people can conduct business with a state court when they have no internet connection at their homes or lack reliable cellular phone service," said Eleventh Judicial District Chief Judge Curtis Gurley. "The justice stations offer more convenience for people who otherwise would need to go to Gallup, Farmington or Aztec for a court hearing."

State Supreme Court Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon said the justice stations represent another initiative by courts to use technology to meet the needs of New Mexicans with legal issues.

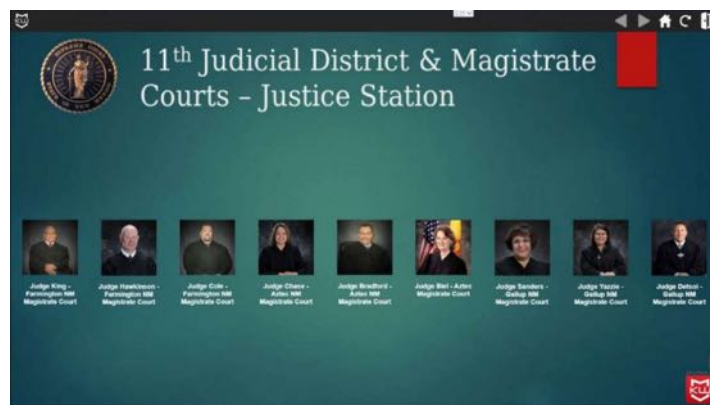
"Justice stations expand access to the justice system to enable people to protect their rights and advocate for their interests if they have a legal problem," said Chief Justice Bacon.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, New Mexico courts have increasingly conducted hearings online through video conferencing platforms rather than requiring the parties to appear in person at a courthouse.

The Eleventh Judicial District Court is collaborating with public and private entities to establish the justice stations throughout the district. The court supplies the needed computer equipment, software, signage and technical assistance during installation. It also maintains the equipment. The private and public entities provide internet service and space for the court's computer equipment in their buildings.

Currently, the justice stations can be used for all proceedings in a traffic case and for pretrial hearings in misdemeanor and civil cases in magistrate courts in McKinley and San Juan counties, including cases involving misdemeanor charges of drunken driving (DWI). The justice stations are not available for domestic violence cases in the district and for hearings in courts outside of the two counties that make up the Eleventh Judicial District.

The court designed the justice stations to streamline computer navigation, allowing users to connect to a hearing with a single touch on the screen of the computer's monitor or one click of a computer mouse. Users need to know the date and time of their hearing and the judge presiding over their case.



"Our goal is to establish more justice stations, particularly in rural areas, and expand the types of court business that can be conducted at them," said Chief Judge Gurley.

The Rock Springs Chapter House is about 10 miles northwest of Gallup, near the state border with Arizona. The Beclabito Chapter House is located on Highway 64, four miles east of the Arizona border and 18 miles west of Shiprock. Both Chapter houses are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and are closed for lunch during the noon hour.

The Octavia Fellin Public Library in Gallup is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday starting at 10 a.m., and Wednesday from 11 a.m.

The justice station in the Gallup Magistrate Court allows visitors to use computer equipment in the lobby to appear in a remotely conducted hearing in another magistrate court in the district. The court is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Read at: <https://bit.ly/41yISG4>

Bulletin Board

Navajo Nation Silver Jackets Team Takes Action in Birdsprings, Arizona

By Chris Stanton and Arianna Kitchens

Published Dec. 11, 2023

Led by the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NN DWR) and coordinated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), a Silver Jackets team, dubbed the Navajo Nation Silver Jackets (NN SJ), formed in March 2023 as a result of significant flooding to the Navajo Nation's Birdsprings Community. Through this inaugural interagency emergency response effort, the team displayed extraordinary coordination, collaboration, and community engagement to deliver expedient flood relief and enhance disaster preparedness with the wider Navajo Nation community and its partners.

Years ago, a bridge was built over the Little Colorado River, but the design and construction did not allow for adequate passage of sediment and debris beneath the bridge. As a result, the bridge had become impacted over time and caused significant flooding to the surrounding Birdsprings community.

On March 28, 2023, after discussions with Birdsprings Chapter representatives, the NN SJ team hosted an interagency meeting attended by the Navajo Nation's Emergency Management Division (EM), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Health, and Environmental Protection Agency; as well as several federal and state agencies including FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), NRCS, USGS, Coconino County, Navajo County, AZ Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, AZ DOT, and the City of Winslow. During this meeting, the NN SJ team and partnering agencies were able to establish a coordinated response effort to help ease the flooding and reduce increased flood risk to the community.

The Navajo Nation's Emergency Management Division, Navajo County EM, Coconino County EM, and USACE EM collaborated through various levels for the initial flood response between March 13-17, 2023. The team worked to evacuate residents, find and fund temporary housing, install HESCO barriers and sandbags, and provide supplies for residents who stayed behind to care for livestock as well as elders and medically sensitive family members. The efforts of this multi-agency EM staff led to educational opportunities for community members to build an understanding of the ways in which flood-fighting materials are dispersed as well as evacuation procedures. By distilling these valuable knowledge and skills, the interagency team worked to empower residents to take an active role in defending their homes and properties against future flooding incidents while protecting lives and ensuring utmost safety of the community at large.

The Navajo Nation DOT, BIA, and county agencies continued interagency efforts into Spring and early Summer 2023 through their hard work repairing washed-out roads rendered impassable by the March flood. Their commitment to restoring essential transportation infrastructure demonstrates the dedication of local agencies to safeguarding the well-being of residents. By restoring access and connectivity, the interagency team has helped to ensure that the Birdsprings community and others can maintain vital connections and regain a sense of normalcy after the devastating effects of flooding this past spring.

The issue of sediment and debris accumulation beneath the bridge is a substantial component of the ongoing flood mitigation efforts. The most recent action completed by BIA and county agencies involved removal of sediment and debris under the impacted bridge. This vital intervention has already begun to alleviate flooding concerns and offers a glimpse of the positive impact that collaboration between agencies can yield.

The NN SJ team is already setting its sights on the future, with a robust agenda aimed at further enhancing flood preparedness and community resilience across Navajo Nation. A key upcoming initiative is the development of several interagency workshops aimed at communicating flood risk awareness directly to Navajo communities. The interagency team holds



NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WORKS TO REPAIR WASHED OUT ROADS AND CULVERTS IN APRIL 2023

quarterly coordination and collaboration meetings to bring together agencies working throughout the Navajo Nation to share their respective agency's efforts and identify ways to further bolster partnerships between the agencies.

In addition, USACE has submitted a proposal to prepare an Emergency Action Plan for Birdsprings. This will be developed with the interagency team and will be fortified through a tabletop exercise simulating a flood response scenario in the community. This hands-on approach will equip Navajo Nation and the community with the tools and insights needed to navigate emergencies with confidence.

Ongoing interagency efforts by the NN SJ team serve as an outstanding example of effective collaboration and proactive community engagement. Through the combined efforts of the team's many partners, the Birdsprings community is on a path toward greater resilience and emergency preparedness.

Navajo Nation Silver Jackets - Partners

Navajo Nation Dept. of Water Resources

Navajo Nation Div. of Emergency Management

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

Navajo Nation Dept. of Transportation

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NOAA National Weather Service

USDA Natural Conservation Resources Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Los Angeles, Albuquerque, and Sacramento Districts

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Geologic Survey

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3GPERn0>

Bulletin Board

Scholars and historians collaborate on Diné textbook

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – A government textbook written by Diné scholars that will teach about Navajo culture, language and way of life is in production, according to an announcement from the Navajo Nation.

Written in both English and Navajo, the two-volume textbook for high school students will include Navajo creation stories to teach students about traditional governance and sovereignty, said Claudia Edgewater-Russell, interim superintendent of Department of Diné Education.

The textbook will be created with a \$172,500 appropriation from the Nation. Diné historians Jennifer Denetdale and Daryl Begay will edit the book, with contributions from Diné authors in the areas of Diné history, governance and culture. Denetdale and Begay will work with the Department of Diné Education to ensure the book meets Navajo Nation and state learning standards.

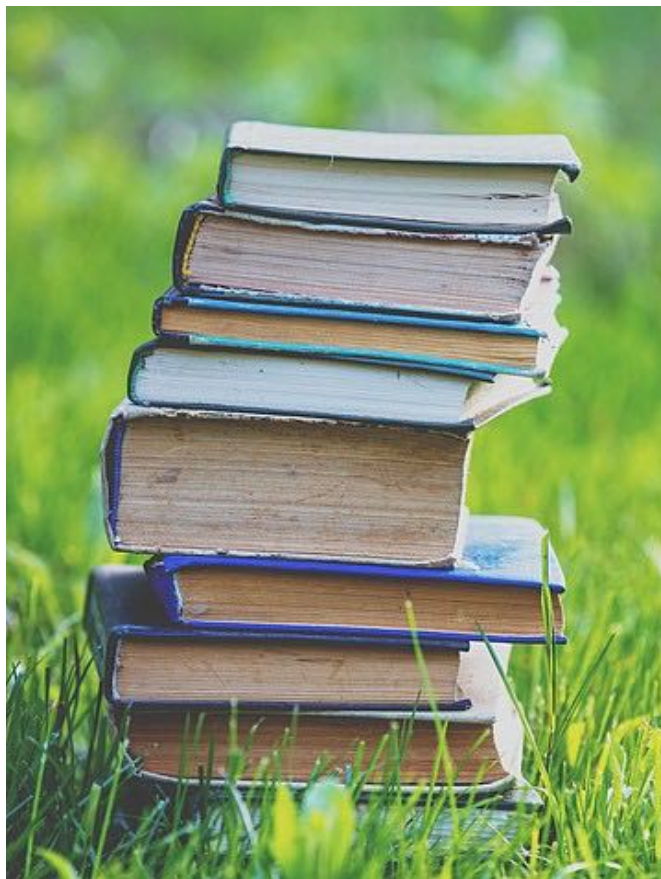
"We are thankful that the Navajo Nation Council and President Buu Nygren overwhelmingly supported a long overdue project," said Rose Graham, director of the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance.

Graham credits Navajo Nation Council Delegate Andy Nez for championing several Navajo language projects, including the government textbook, and ensuring funds were appropriated for each in the Navajo Nation budget.

Co-editor Denetdale said the Navajo Nation government textbook fills an urgent need and could be used for high school students or college courses.

"An informal survey of Diné teachers who attended Northern Arizona University's Institute for Native-serving Educators (INE) indicates that such a textbook does not exist," she said. "Meetings with Diné teachers across the Navajo Nation also indicate that there is no current Navajo Nation government textbook specifically for high school students."

According to the Nation, volume one will focus on the roots of Diné sovereignty and the historical shifts in governance under cycles of colonial intrusions that have shaped the modern Navajo government. Volume two will explore how American democratic governance principles were used to establish the modern Navajo Nation and the ongoing efforts to return to Diné governance and leadership principles as the foundation of government.



READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/48omZvg>

Tónaaneesdizí Chapter continues push for new senior center

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Tónaaneesdizí (Tuba City) Chapter Council of Nataanii officials were applauded by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren for their hard work in pushing for new construction funding for the Tuba City Senior Center.

"I really believe Tuba City is leading by example," Nygren said. He emphasized the importance of a partnership among local leadership, Executive Branch program and the delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council in moving the Tuba City Senior Center forward.

The senior center project began prior to the pandemic. Initial funding for \$5 million for the project was approved under Resolution CAP-35-18 and is funded through the SÍhásin Fund for two years. The contract is between the Navajo Nation and the Tuba City chapter, which will manage the project as a Local Governance Act-certified chapter.

Also in attendance was Navajo Nation Council Delegate Casey Allan Johnson and Navajo Department of Health Executive Director Kim Russell.

Nygren also acknowledged the leadership of Council Delegate Otto Tso and the local community members who were watching the contract signing via livestream at Tuba City.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3ROHJa6>



PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
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Administrative Service Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Jeddito, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Indian Wells, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sawmill, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Round Rock, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Nageezi, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Huerfano, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lake Valley, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Standing Rock, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Torreon, NM	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tohajilee, NM	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Rock, NM	30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Church Rock, NM	42,407.28	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Red Valley, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tecnospos, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Ojato, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, 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)	Tecnospos, 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
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Whitecone, AZ	30,046.32	09/25/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Pinedale, NM	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Torreon, NM	30,046.32	01/05/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sanostee, NM	30,046.32	01/05/2024
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sanostee, NM	42,407.24	01/05/2024
Office Specialist (S)	Kayenta, AZ	30,046.32	01/05/2024
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)	Tsayatoh, NM	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsaille, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Hardrock, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Low Mountain, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Thoreau, 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 Services Coordinator (S)	Coppermine, AZ	40,778.64	OUF

Capital Projects Management Department

Registered Architect	Window Rock, AZ	72,683.28	OUF
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Community Housing & Infrastructure Department

Administrative Assistant (S)	Window Rock, AZ	42,407.28	1/5/2024
Carpenter (S)	Window Rock, AZ	35,642.16	1/5/2024

(OUF) Open Until Filled

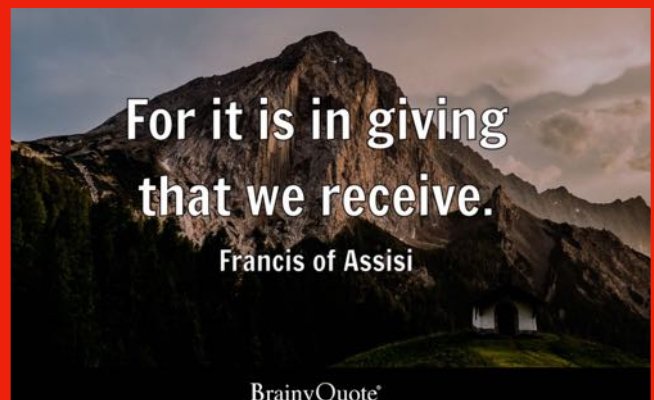
(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check) Closing Dates may change

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



Bill of Rights Day (1791): December 15, 2023

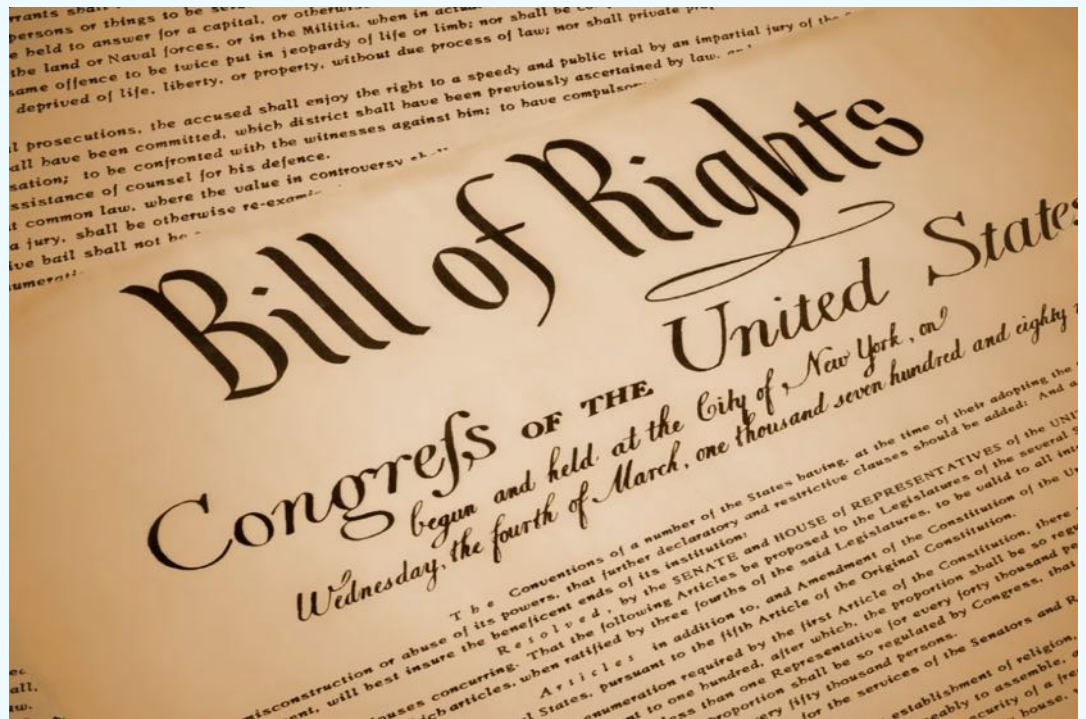
December 15, 2023

Press Release Number CB.23-SFS-172

According to the National Archives, "The Constitution might never have been ratified if the framers had not promised to add a Bill of Rights. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution gave citizens more confidence in the new government and contain many of today's Americans' most valued freedoms."

From The American Presidency Project, Proclamation 10507–Bill of Rights Day, 2022:

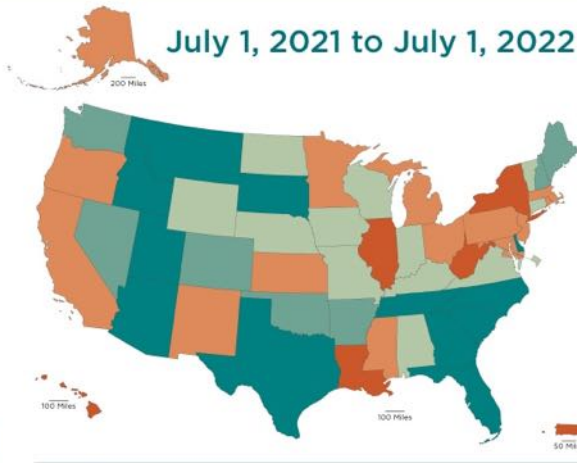
"With three simple words—"We the People"—the United States Constitution set in motion the most extraordinary experiment in self-governance that the world has ever known. The Bill of Rights made this possible, ensuring ratification by every State then in our new nation. On Bill of Rights Day, we celebrate the fundamental American freedoms enshrined in those first 10 Amendments to our Constitution and recommit to making the full promise of America real for all Americans.



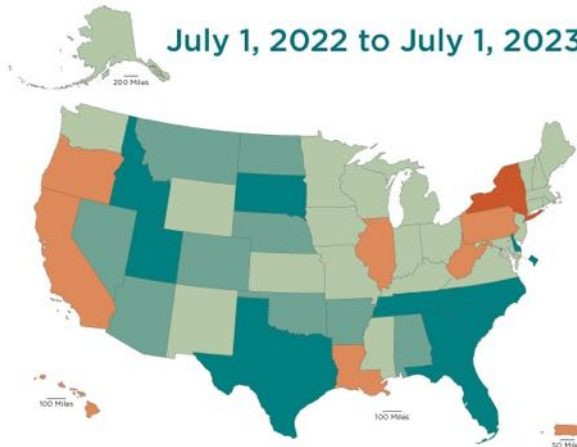
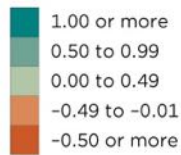
"The Bill of Rights embodies a core American strength: the capacity for compromise and self-improvement. By codifying fundamental freedoms, it won over states skeptical of a federal government at the time of our founding and proved our Constitution to be a living document, capable of evolving to perfect our Union. The basic rights it guarantees—to religion, speech, press, privacy and more—have come to define our nation. And in the over two centuries since their enumeration, 17 other amendments have been ratified—ending slavery, ensuring equal protection under the law, giving women the right to vote, banning poll taxes and more—opening the door of opportunity a little wider with each generation."

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

Percent Change in State Population

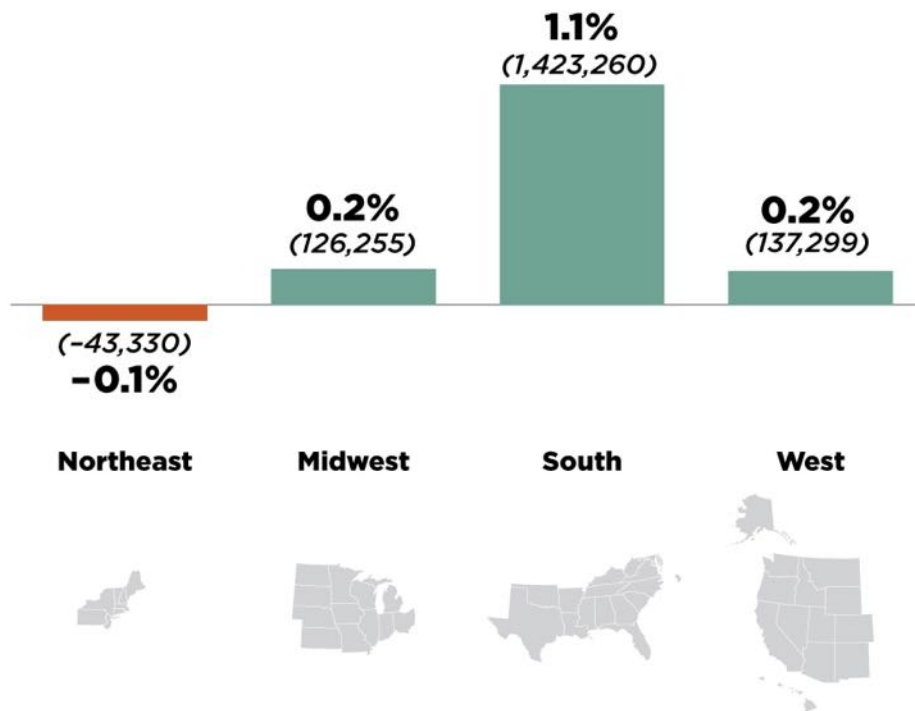


Percent change



Population Change by Region

July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023



*MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!*



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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