

February 2024

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Division of Community Development Newsletter

February 2024

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### Did You Know...

Treaty Between the United States of America and the Navajo Tribe of Indians  
 Concluded June 1, 1868  
 Ratification advised July 25, 1868  
 Proclaimed August 12, 1868  
[Read More Here](#)

### Events:

#### February: Atsá Biyáázh - "Baby Eaglets"

- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 11: Superbowl Sunday
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 19: Presidents' Day
- February 29: Leap Day

#### March: Wóózhch'íid - "Cry of Baby Eaglets"

- March 10: Daylight Saving Time Starts
- March 17: Saint Patrick's Day
- March 20: Spring Equinox (Start of Spring)
- March 31: Easter Sunday

## Capital Projects Management Department Strategic Planning Work session



In the bustling halls of our organization, amidst the chaos of daily operations, there lies a story of resilience and determination. It's a narrative woven by every member of our team, a testament to our unwavering commitment to progress. Today, we unveil this journey—a journey marked by challenges overcome and victories achieved.

In recent discussions, we've confronted the obstacles that punctuate our daily routines. From late-night meetings to parking predicaments, we've faced them all. But through it all, we've emerged stronger, armed with a newfound resolve to tackle whatever lies ahead.

At the core of our journey lies strategic planning—a roadmap to excellence. We've delved deep into our organizational history, learning from past missteps and charting a course towards a brighter future. With each strategic decision, we're forging ahead with purpose and clarity, determined to shape our destiny.

But our journey doesn't end there. We're breathing new life into our mission statement, infusing it with renewed purpose and vigor. Together, we're redefining what it means to be trailblazers in our industry—visionaries committed to making a difference.

As we embark on this transformative journey, we're cultivating a distinct organizational identity—one rooted in collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. Together, we're building a community where every voice is heard and every contribution is valued.





Our team members are the backbone of our organization—the driving force behind every success story. We're committed to empowering them, recognizing their contributions, and fostering a culture of growth and development. Together, we're unstoppable.

As we press forward, we take time to celebrate every milestone, no matter how small. From project successes to personal achievements, each one brings us closer to our shared goals. Together, we'll continue to defy expectations and reach new heights of success.

So as we conclude this chapter of our journey, our gaze is fixed firmly on the horizon. With determination and unity, we're poised to conquer new frontiers and write the next chapter of our

organization's storied legacy. Together, we'll shape a future filled with promise and possibility.

In the end, our journey is not just about overcoming obstacles or achieving victories—it's about the collective spirit that propels us forward. It's about breaking barriers, defying expectations, and realizing our full potential. And with each step we take, we draw closer to that vision of success.

As we continue on this journey, let us remember the strength that lies within each of us—the power to overcome, to innovate, and to inspire. Together, we'll write the next chapter of our story—a story of triumph, of growth, and of boundless possibility.

Here's to the journey ahead—to breaking barriers and reaching new heights together.

Throughout the event, there was a palpable sense of purpose and dedication among attendees, reflecting the Division's unwavering commitment to serving the community. As discussions unfolded and plans took shape, it became evident that the Division is poised for significant progress in the coming months.

Looking ahead, the insights gained from this strategic work session will undoubtedly guide the Division's efforts as it continues to tackle challenges and pursue opportunities for growth and development. With a shared vision and a robust plan in place, the Division is well-positioned to make a lasting impact on the Navajo Nation and beyond.

Stay tuned for further updates as the Division marches forward on its path to success.





# FRF Updates

## Speaker Curley and Delegate Simpson Chapter Group Session at NDOT on 02.26.24

By Edwin Begay, PPS

Tse Bonito, NM - Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and Honorable Germaine Simonson, Council Delegate host a joint meeting with their chapter officials and coordinators to attend an update session on Section Three (3) and Section Eleven (11) funded under the American Rescue Plan Act for Certified/Non-Certified Chapters. Updates ranged from the threshold of purchasing dollar amount up to RFP (Request for Proposals); or RFQ (Request for Qualification) if proposed subject item was beyond fifty (50) thousand dollars. If the subject item purchasing was under fifty (50) thousand dollars, our Division would provide the technical assistance of encumbering of the funds to purchase the item/equipment for Non-Certified Chapters.



Certified Chapters were disbursed of funds at 50% if the chapter was in good standing with fiscal financial audits of the approved ARPA packet authorized by the Navajo Nation Council. Otherwise those chapters had different disbursements at 25% or 15% depending upon the corrective action requirements of fiscal financial audits under the sanction status for chapters. Funds distribution must be spent and documented up to 75% to qualify for additional distribution of funds for projects with the respective chapters.

Non-Chapter funds remain with Navajo Division of Community Development with ARPA team to process the required documents on behalf of the chapter for purchasing up to fifty (50) thousand dollars. These chapters are also subject to adherence of the Navajo Nation Procurement Policy to advertise beyond the threshold.

NECA (Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority) also provided a presentation on current constructions of Bathroom Additions or those in the process of construction with Work Orders authorizing from Navajo Division of Community Development ARPA team. Presentation provided the 10X15 construction photos of the Bathroom Additions in meeting the ADA (Americans with Disability Act) requirements for wheelchair or walker mobility access within the new construction. There are a few Work Orders issued for construction of the Bathroom Additions and goals are to meet over 1,500 constructed Bathroom Additions before December 2026.

These were a few of the highlights of the purpose of the meeting held with these chapters; although similar meetings are held with various Council Delegates for their chapters of which they represent regionally.

*DCD ARPA team consists of:*

*Paulene Thomas, Dept. Manager II*

*Edwin Begay, Admin Services Officer*

*Dawnelle Begay, Programs & Projects Specialist*

*Ryan Begay, Planner/Estimator*





February 2024

## Housing Improvement Program Update

We are pleased to announce the completion of two homes on Thursday, February 29, 2024, by the dedicated construction personnel of the NN HIP for two Navajo elders, one located in Pinon AZ and the other in Dilkon AZ.

In Pinon AZ, a 1-bedroom unit has been constructed for an applicant who has patiently awaited this moment for over 6 years. The previous dwelling had become unsafe, necessitating its removal. Now, in its place stands a new home, ensuring safety and comfort. With existing utilities already in place, including electricity, water, and wastewater, the resident is set to enjoy the new residence as soon as utility connections are finalized. The excitement is palpable as the occupant eagerly anticipates the official turnover of keys.

Similarly, in Dilkon AZ, a 1-bedroom unit has been constructed for another applicant who, like the previous one, has patiently awaited this moment for over 6 years. The resident has been residing in a dilapidated mobile home, lacking essential utilities. With the completion of the new home, the resident is poised to embark on a new chapter, one that promises safety and stability. Expressing relief at finally having a "real home," the resident extends gratitude to the hardworking HIP construction personnel. The final inspection and turnover of keys for this home are scheduled accordingly.

In addition to these achievements, we are excited to announce that two more projects will soon commence in Rock Point and Lukachukai, Arizona, with an anticipated completion date of June 2024. The two applicants have also been patiently awaiting their new homes after years of applying. Although our construction crew is limited to just two teams, they have been working tirelessly to ensure timely completion of homes for all applicants.

These endeavors underscore the commitment of NN HIP to provide safe and dignified housing solutions for the Navajo elders in our community. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all those who will benefit from these projects and commend the tireless efforts of the construction personnel involved. Together, we continue to build a brighter future for all members of our community.

Community Housing Infrastructure Department  
Fort Defiance, AZ 86504  
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HIP Program Office Fort Defiance  
[Google maps location](#)  
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HIP Program Office Chinle  
[Google maps location](#)  
5C3Q+8W  
Chinle, Arizona



February 2024

## CPMD and NTUA Successfully Complete Dennehotso Project, Bringing Power to the Navajo Nation

The Division of Community Development is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Dennehotso project by the Capital Project Management Department (CPMD) in collaboration with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA). This landmark achievement marks a significant milestone in providing essential electrical power to the Dennehotso Chapter of the Navajo Nation.

After rigorous planning, execution, and dedication from both CPMD and NTUA teams, the completed projects now offer much-needed electricity to five homes within the Dennehotso Chapter, marking the first time these communities have access to such essential services.



Ms. Judith Willoughby played a pivotal role in this success through her meticulous field assessments and final inspections. Her expertise ensured that the projects met the highest standards and were executed efficiently, contributing significantly to the project's overall success.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to CPMD for their outstanding accomplishment in bringing electricity to the Dennehotso community. This achievement not only demonstrates CPMD's commitment to excellence but also underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the critical needs of underserved communities.

Furthermore, we are proud to announce that these five homes represent the final phase of a larger initiative. In total, 27 customers were

identified for connection, and despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, 22 customers have already been successfully connected. This underscores the resilience and dedication of our teams in ensuring that essential services reach those in need, even amidst difficult circumstances.

As we celebrate this achievement, we remain committed to serving the Navajo Nation and look forward to continued collaboration and progress in enhancing the quality of life for all its members.



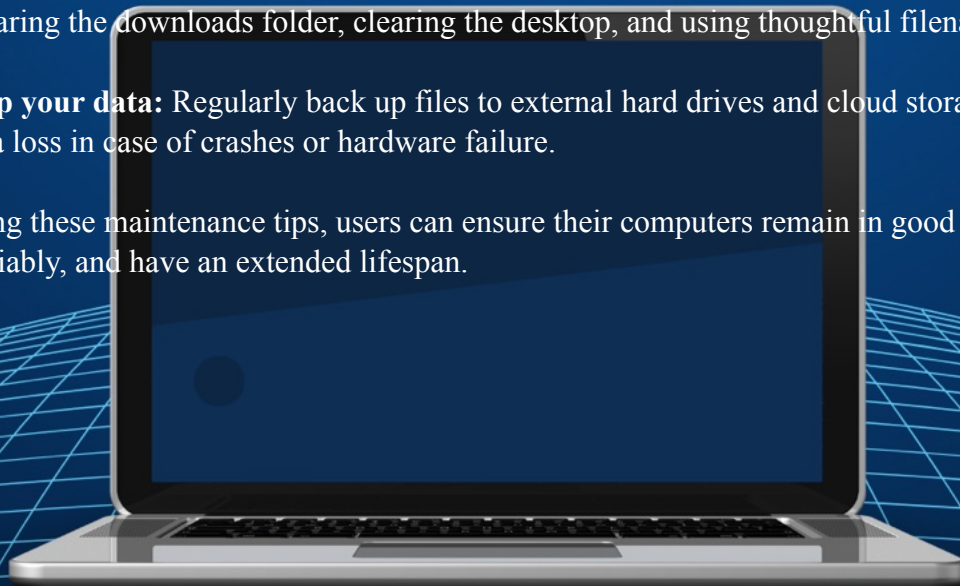
February 2024

# TECH TIPS

## LAPTOP CARE

- 1. Protect with padding:** Use protective cases like skins, hardshell snap-on covers, sleeves, or messenger bags to shield the computer from physical damage during travel.
- 2. Organize cords:** Declutter and organize cables using methods such as rotating power strips, color-coding, cable clips, and organizer panels to prevent tangling and confusion.
- 3. Update your operating system:** Regularly update your OS to ensure optimal performance and security, as updates often include patches for vulnerabilities and improvements.
- 4. Unplug to avoid overcharging:** Avoid overcharging your device's battery by unplugging it once fully charged to prevent deterioration of battery life.
- 5. Purge your system of junk files and programs:** Remove unnecessary files and programs to free up storage space and optimize system performance.
- 6. Run regular antivirus scans:** Protect against malware by running weekly antivirus scans to detect and remove any malicious software.
- 7. Clean the keyboard and case:** Use compressed air and a damp cloth to remove dust and debris from the keyboard and exterior of the computer to prevent sticky keys and overheating.
- 8. Update your passwords:** Regularly update passwords to strengthen security and protect against potential breaches.
- 9. Organize your data:** Maintain a well-organized file structure by creating main folders, sub-folders, clearing the downloads folder, clearing the desktop, and using thoughtful filenames.
- 10. Back up your data:** Regularly back up files to external hard drives and cloud storage to protect against data loss in case of crashes or hardware failure.

By following these maintenance tips, users can ensure their computers remain in good condition, perform reliably, and have an extended lifespan.





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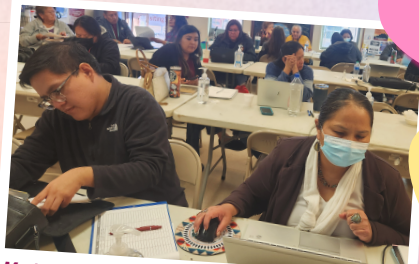
# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS



Chilchinbeto, AZ - Kayenta ASC



Crownpoint NTU - Ft. Defiance ASC



Mariano Lake, NM - Gallup ASC



## February 2024 Highlights

Last month, the Administrative Service Centers (ASC) were buzzing with activity as we conducted Staff Meetings and Trainings to provide vital technical assistance to the 110 Navajo Nation chapters. Across our eight offices, dedicated teams worked tirelessly to extend crucial support, assisting chapters with budgeting, orienting new staff, emergency management, and facilitating meetings with other Navajo Nation programs to ensure chapters received relevant updates.

Amidst it all, the ASC department remained steadfast in its commitment to empowering chapters, offering valuable guidance on financial matters, Navajo Nation laws, and policies. These efforts reinforce our mission to foster effective communication and collaboration within the community. Thank you to all our hardworking teams for their dedication to serving our chapters and advancing our shared goals!

<b>Date:</b>	<b>ASC Office:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Office/Topic/Presenter:</b>
2-27-24	Shiprock ASC	TwoGreyHills	Emergency Management Planning
2-26-24	Chinle ASC	NDOT Headquarters, Tse Benito NM	Delegate Crystayne Curley and Delegate Germaine Simonson District Work Session
2-26-24	Crownpoint ASC	Lake Valley Chapter	ARPA CHID review on housing assessments with Delegate Simpson's five chapters
2-23-24	Kayenta ASC	Chilchinbeto Chapter	Title 26 Training
2-23-24	Crownpoint ASC	Whitehorse Lake Chapter	ARPA CHID project meeting with Delegate Tolth's chapters
2-21-24	Shiprock ASC	Red Valley Chapter	CHID ARPA Housing Update Jeffrey Goodluck, Construction Supervisor Sean Pioche, Carpenter
2-20-24	Shiprock ASC	San Juan Chapter	CHID ARPA Housing Update Jeffrey Goodluck, Construction Supervisor Sean Pioche, Carpenter
2-14-24	Shiprock ASC	Google Meet	Emergency Fund Management Plan & Cost Summary Reports
2-13-24	Shiprock ASC	Shiprock ASC Office	Best Practices - Orientation for New Staff
1-30-24	Gallup ASC	Mariano Lake Chapter	Emergency Response Plan development Virtual Meeting legislation, Chapter Budgets, Emergency Funds legislation Capital Outlay Requests, Pilot Project with CPMD, ARPA updates
1-29-24	Ft. Defiance ASC	Crownpoint NTU	Staff Meeting - Updates







February 2024

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS



## Exciting News from the ASC!

*This month, we're thrilled to announce the arrival of new team members at the chapters! Join us in welcoming three (3) Community Services Coordinators and two (2) Accounts Maintenance Specialists, filling a total of five (5) previously vacant chapter positions. These roles are pivotal in delivering essential services to communities throughout the Navajo Nation.*

*The ASC department and chapters are overjoyed to have these valuable additions on board and eagerly anticipate their future contributions under the Division of Community Development. Let's give a warm welcome to our new colleagues and look forward to the great work ahead!*

<b>New Staff</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Position</b>
Aubry Holt	Nageezi Chapter	AMS
Ronalda Joe	Red Mesa Chapter	CSC
Leland Begay	Sanostee Chapter	AMS
Zelma Bodie	Sanostee Chapter	CSC
Jessica Robertson	Coalmine Canyon Chapter	CSC





# Bulletin Board

## "In the Dirt" documentary empowers mountain bikers on the Navajo Nation

KSJD | By Clark Adomaitis  
Published February 27, 2024

Not one bike shop exists in on the Navajo Nation's 27,000 square miles.

"In the Dirt" presents mountain biking as a path toward personal growth and community resilience. The Navajo Nation is marked by geographical vastness and limited infrastructure, and bicycles have become more than just modes of transportation.

Gregory Bahe is a Navajo man, cycling coach, and parent. In an interview in the documentary, he spoke about his children's love for cycling.

"I've been trying to tell my kids, 'Live your life; you're not promised tomorrow. That's what makes you strong; you just got to keep moving forward, don't give up.' What they like to do is bike. That helps them relieve some of that stress and just the mental part of it. That's one of the things that we like to do as my family," said Bahe.

Bahe is from Chinle, Arizona. His children, Owen and Emma, are featured in "In the Dirt." They traveled to Cortez for the screening.

"The thing I love about biking is the community I ride with," said Owen Bahe. "I like riding with them. It's a lot of fun. I like how it brings our team together."

"I love that it connects me more with the outdoors because I just really love the outdoors, and looking at the scenery, and wondering where it can take me," said Emma Bahe.

Owen and Emma ride with a cycling nonprofit out of Gallup, New Mexico, called Silver Stallion. Silver Stallion is comprised of over 190 adult and children



"In the Dirt" cast members spoke on a panel to the audience in Cortez, CO, about the importance of cycling to them. Clark Adomaitis/KSUT/KSJD

mountain bikers, many of whom are featured in this documentary. Some riders shared their motivation for cycling at a Q+A panel after the screening.

Franklin Cook is from Fort Defiance, AZ. He revealed that cycling helped him battle addiction.

"With my past addiction that I had with drinking, and just hanging out with the wrong crowd, I just decided to pick up the bike again. What I did was just pedal it around, and it got the feeling out of me to not think about drinking and doing stuff again. I found a way to pedal away from trouble, pedal away from the alcohol, pedal away from the drugs, from the gang violence," said Cook.

Scott Nydam is the director of the Silver Stallion

cycling non-profit. He told the crowd watching the documentary that he sees the growth of biking as part of a more significant movement.

"We're working on utilizing the existing health service ecosystem that is in this post-colonial state of which there is self-determination. This project can add to that... This could scale. It starts here. We have attention from the industry," said Nydam.

Scott Nydam is working on a mobile bike shop that would travel to rural areas of the Navajo Nation. The "In the Dirt" documentary continues to tour nationwide. The film has not yet been released for online streaming.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/49Tn8aC>

## Perfect pairing: Forest thinning and firewood for Navajo families

The Salt River Project, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation, has announced a \$500,000 plan to thin the tree thickets on some 3,600 acres in Pine Canyon and Deadman Mesa. The Valley utility company will also donate \$25,000 per year to Wood for Life, which provides firewood to families on the Navajo and Hopi reservations.

The project will help protect communities like Pine and Strawberry from potential crown fires, and will also supply firewood to low-income families, many of whom rely entirely on firewood for heat and cooking.

The Wood for Life program, which also partners with the National Forest Foundation, will deploy tribal youth crews and fire crews to distribute the wood directly to elders and

families in need.

One recent survey found that more than four-fifths of Navajo families rely on firewood for some portion of their energy needs and nearly one-third rely entirely on firewood. That's especially true for the families with the lowest incomes.

"We are thrilled for the significant investment in forest and watershed health by SRP as part of NFF's Northern Arizona Forest Fund, focusing on priority restoration needs across the Salt and Verde watersheds," said Rebecca Davidson, NFF senior director of conservation programs. "This exciting partnership will bolster ongoing work, seed new projects, and leverage millions

of dollars that will collectively benefit local communities and downstream water users."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3P3PWW5>



This image shows a thinned pinyon juniper woodland. The thinning project will dramatically reduce the intensity and spread of a wildfire. Michael McNamara, Photo courtesy Salt River Project



# Bulletin Board

## Navajo Nation Donates \$500K to USU Monument Valley Center Construction

February 8, 2024

By Marcus Jensen

MONUMENT VALLEY, Utah – Thanks to a generous donation from the Navajo Nation, Utah State University is one step closer to realizing its vision of an education and community center in the Monument Valley region of San Juan County. On January 23, the Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved a \$500,000 donation to the project.

"We express our profound gratitude to the Navajo Nation for their invaluable contribution to the Monument Valley academic building," stated Kristian Olsen, senior associate vice president for USU Blanding. "Council Delegate Herman Daniels has emerged as a champion for this project, and his unwavering support has been instrumental in garnering the assistance we have received.

"The forthcoming building is poised to be a wonderful benefit to the community, symbolizing the Navajo Nation's enduring commitment to education and fostering the growth and development of residents in the Four Corners area. We appreciate our relationship with the Navajo Nation and anticipate a long and fruitful collaboration in the future. We look forward to furthering our positive impact together."

The bill was sponsored by Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr., who says the facility will benefit residents in the communities of Monument Valley, Oljato, and Kayenta. The overall cost for the building is estimated to be \$14 million.

"I thank my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for supporting this initiative that will benefit many Navajo people who want to pursue higher education and build their technical skills," said Delegate Daniels in a statement released by the Navajo Nation.

The education and community center plan calls for an approximately 13,000-square-foot building that will include modern classrooms, computer labs, a nursing and CNA lab, Career & Technical Education lab, small business development space, a welding lab, space for adult education and USU



Extension, administrative and faculty offices, and space for community gatherings and public events. The building will also be equipped for distance learning and will offer an array of certificates and degrees, ranging from technical certificates to doctorate degrees, as well as academic guidance and support, counseling services, and career mentoring.

The building will also offer opportunities for concurrent enrollment collaboration with the high school. The proposed site for the building is located just northwest of Monument Valley High School. The San Juan School Board approved the site for the facility in October 2021.

In addition to the funds provided from the Navajo Nation, the building also has received a \$5 million commitment from the Utah Legislature in the 2022 Legislative Session, as well as a commitment of \$5 million in funds from USU. The rest of the funding will come via philanthropic donations.

The date for groundbreaking has not been set, but further information will be provided once a firm date is set. It is anticipated the building will open for classes beginning in the spring 2026 semester.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3uWV7QI>

## Energy Department Awards A Navajo And Hopi Project That Will Help Power 300 Homes

The U.S. Department of Energy announced a series of grant programs to help tribes across the country improve energy efficiency. One of the projects awarded will help people on the Navajo and Hopi nations. An eight-million dollar grant will help "Energizing Rural Hopi and Navajo with Solar Powered Batter-Based Systems." The project plans to install 2.5 kilowatts off-grid solar and battery storage

systems to electrify 300 tribal homes, enhancing energy resilience and increasing electrification rates within the community. The project will help families with essential power needs including lighting and refrigeration for food and medicine. Deputy Energy Secretary David Turk will be in Flagstaff Wednesday to meet with tribal leaders about the program.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3UYPdt4>





# Bulletin Board

## Grant funding will address critical housing needs on Navajo Nation

By Melissa Sevigny

Published February 21, 2024 at 4:00 AM MST

The Arizona Department of Housing awarded a \$2 million grant to an Indigenous-led, Utah-based nonprofit to address housing needs on the Navajo Nation.

It's the first time money from the state's housing trust fund has been allocated to a nonprofit group.

Yee Ha'ólńí Doo formed in 2020 to provide pandemic relief to Navajo and Hopi people. It's now focused on cultural revitalization, economic development, food security, and housing.

Interim executive director Mary Francis says safe housing is a fundamental human right.

"It plays a role in shaping lives and building strong communities. So we really want to roll up our sleeves and get some work done because it's much needed."

Francis says the grant money will cover repairs and improvements to homes for at least one hundred Navajo families living on tribal land... anything from roof repairs to new wood stoves to wheelchair ramps. Families in need will be identified through chapter houses and community leaders.

Many Navajo homes lack running water, electricity, or reliable heating.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/49uxUVd>



Ames Meyers/Yee Ha'ólńí Doo

The Yee Ha'ólńí Doo's housing initiative fixes the roof of 74-year-old Vietnam veteran Larry Yazzie.

## Honoring Sony Franklin: A Legacy of Dedication



Window Rock, AZ - The Capital Projects Management Department bids farewell to Sony Franklin, Senior Engineering Technician, as he embarks on a new chapter after 40 years with the Division of Community Development. On February 23, 2024, colleagues gathered to celebrate his remarkable contributions with a farewell dinner and cake ceremony.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Franklin's dedication to the mission of the Division of Community Development has left an indelible mark on the Navajo Nation. His leadership and commitment have driven progress and resilience within the organization.

As Mr. Franklin transitions to the General Land Department, we extend our deepest gratitude for his service and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Capital Projects Management Department



# Bulletin Board

## NEW HEALTH CARE CENTER COMING TO REMOTE BODAWAY-GAP REGION

Facility to provide essential outpatient services, including dental clinic

February 13, 2024 11:57 a.m

TUBA CITY, Ariz. — After nearly two decades of planning, residents of the Bodaway-Gap region will soon have access to their own dedicated healthcare center, marking a significant milestone for the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation (TCRHCC). Scheduled to break ground Feb. 16, the new two-story, 123,565 square foot facility is expected to be operational by late fall 2025, following an 18-month construction period.

The upcoming facility, a two-story structure spanning 123,565 square feet, is poised to provide essential outpatient medical services to the underserved region. Anticipated services include a dental clinic, eye clinic, wellness center and a laboratory, and will offer podiatry/specialty care, primary care, mental health services, physical therapy, pharmacy, and other essential healthcare amenities.

The facility will also have a community health representative to provide information and assist with Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) services, health education, special diabetes care, behavioral health, communicable disease management and HIV prevention.

Situated between Page and Tuba City, the Bodaway/Gap community has long grappled with limited healthcare access, necessitating a 35-mile journey for basic medical services to Tuba City. The journey's burden led to the establishment of a part-time clinic housed in a mobile building in 2018 by TCRHCC.

The initiative for a dedicated health facility in the region traces back to 2002 when Bodaway, Gap, and Kaibeto communities jointly requested such a center. Initial

planning was funded by the Indian Health Services, leading to the formation of the Bodaway-Gap Steering Committee under the auspices of Tuba City Hospital, which assumed responsibility due to Bodaway-Gap's location within TCRHCC's service area following Tuba City Hospital's transition to a P.L. 638 health center.

A pivotal milestone was reached Dec. 1, 2023, when the design team presented the proposed facility to the TCRHCC Board of Directors and local chapter officials. The design garnered unanimous approval, marking a significant step forward in the "They liked the design and expressed their appreciation," said Chief Operations Officer Julius Young.

CEO Joette Walters hailed the impending construction as a historic event for the surrounding communities, underlining the project's beginnings in a shared vision to enhance healthcare accessibility.

"TCRHCC is excited for the

opportunity to improve access to care for our communities," Walters said. "Having lived remotely while growing up, there were many things that we often lived without but that should not be the case when it comes to our health and wellness. Our families deserve access to timely and quality care, and as a healthcare organization we are honored to fulfill that mission. We are grateful to have the support of the leaders of our local communities, the IHS and Navajo Nation to turn this vision into a reality."

As preparations for construction continue, project planners are actively engaged in ancillary activities, including housing initiatives to complement the forthcoming health center.

For further updates and event information, interested parties are encouraged to visit the TCRHCC website at [www.tchealth.org](http://www.tchealth.org).

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3wGTze5>



An architectural rendering of TCRHCC's new, two story 123,565 feet health care facility. The health center is expected to be completed sometime in late fall 2025.



# Bulletin Board

## National Endowment for the Arts Announces 2024 NEA National Heritage Fellows

Recipients of our Nation's Highest Honor in the Folk and Traditional Arts

By Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S. Senator - Retired, Northern Cheyenne

Feb 28, 2024

Susan Hudson (Navajo/Diné)

2024 NEA National Heritage Fellow

Sheep Springs, New Mexico

Quilter

Washington, DC—The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is pleased to announce this year's NEA National Heritage Fellows, recipients of our nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. Every year since 1982, the NEA has presented this lifetime honor in recognition of individuals whose dedication and artistry contribute to the preservation and growth of the diverse cultural traditions that comprise our nation. Each fellowship includes a \$25,000 award and the recipients will be honored in Washington, DC in fall 2024.

"I am honored to announce the ten gifted recipients that have been named 2024 NEA National Heritage Fellows," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "Through their dedication to and generous stewardship of their traditions and cultures, these artists and culture bearers carry forward their knowledge and passion to future generations. They offer us the opportunity to see things from different perspectives, help us make sense of the world, and celebrate our rich collective heritage comprised of our diverse lived experiences."

Bio

Susan Hudson is a multidimensional artist and skilled quilter, who has tapped into her personal struggles and the struggles of her people through her art. Born in East Los Angeles, California, she now lives in Sheep Springs, New Mexico. A member of the Navajo Nation, Hudson's clans are Towering House People, Apache People, Water Edge People, and Mexican People.

Hudson's mother, Dorothy Woods, as well as her grandmothers, were forced to learn sewing in boarding schools where there was little tolerance for mistakes. When Hudson was nine years of age, her mother taught her how to sew out of necessity, as they were quite poor and couldn't afford to buy clothes. Hudson learned to alter donated clothes and made quilts out of the scraps.

Hudson's quilting became an income stream when she began making Star Quilts for Indian pow wows and giveaways at the request of Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a former U.S. Senator from Colorado. Senator Campbell encouraged her to break away from making traditional star quilts and she soon developed her own artistic voice with contemporary ledger art quilts.

Ledger art is a type of narrative drawing or painting on animal hides, primarily practiced by Plains Indians in the 1860s. Hudson uses a crossover style inspired by ledger art, recounting history through her quilts. She has taken her quilting to a whole new level, serving as an activist storyteller. Her pictorial quilts honor her ancestors and illustrate the proud history of the Navajo people.

Through quilting, Hudson chronicles the sacrifices and strengths of her family and remembers their hardships. Important pieces in her work include the quilts she has named Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Since 1492 and Walk of My Ancestors: Coming Home, depicting the return from the Long Walk of the Navajos. Hudson also creates quilts that depict the trauma of the boarding schools.

Hudson is a co-founder of the Navajo Quilt Project, which donates fabric to elders all across the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Quilt Project engages with the community, makes quilts for giveaways and traditional ceremonies, and

empowers others to start their own businesses.

Hudson's quilts have been acquired for collection by the International Quilt Museum, Heard Museum, Autry Western Museum, Riverside Museum, and National Museum of the American Indian. Other acquisitions include the Gochman Collection, the John and Susan Horseman Foundation, and many private collectors.

No longer silenced, the voices of her Indigenous relatives can now be heard through Hudson's quilt exhibitions around the country. In competition, her quilts have garnered 29 First Place awards, 16 Second Place awards, 6 Third Place awards, 4 Special awards, 12 Best of Division awards, Jackie Autry Purchase, Idyllwild Imagination Art Award, and 5 Best of Show award

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





# Bulletin Board

## Shiprock hotel and restaurant has a name

**WINDOW ROCK** – The new Shiprock hotel and restaurant has a name.

According to Carly Sapp, the project manager for Navajo Hospitality Enterprise, the suggested name for the new hotel and restaurant is "Shiprock Pinnacle Hotel and Shiprock Pinnacle Restaurant."

This up-and-coming project has been in the talks for years, and now that the project has been approved in 2022, the project brings hope for job opportunities and sales tax to the Navajo Nation and the Shiprock community.

The project includes a four-story 83-room hotel and a 114-seat restaurant, according to the fourth quarterly report on Dec. 31, 2023, provided by Navajo Hospitality Enterprise.

The restaurant will be a free-standing building with 3,962 square feet of meeting space. The expected location for the hotel and restaurant would be north of the Wells Fargo on U.S. Highway 491, northwest of the intersection with New Mexico Highway 64, where the Bureau of Indian Affairs developed approximately 40 acres of tribal trust land known as the Shiprock Administrative Reserve in 1903, according to a resolution in 2021.

Shiprock Chapter Vice President Debra Yazzie said that over the years, Shiprock Chapter has assisted with the legal survey from 2015 to 2019. During those times, the chapter officials requested the study and completed it by demolishing the 40 BIA buildings.

This action was sponsored by Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton in 2021 to prepare for future community economic development.

Before the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved the project, the Council stated it would take roughly two years to construct and cost \$22.5 million.

However, because of increased supply costs since 2016, the funding shortfall was fulfilled when Legislation No. 0258-22 appropriated the \$11.4 million. According to the Navajo Hospitality Enterprise, \$970,000 will be put toward architecture and design, \$700,000 for site improvements, \$800,000 for mandatory NTUA utility upgrades, \$17.9 million for building construction, and \$2 million for hotel and restaurant furniture and equipment, according to the Council's July 2022 report.

Although the Shiprock Chapter has assisted in many ways with this project, Yazzie said the chapter has only the basic information regarding the project timeline since last year and has not been updated.

"It (project) is supposed to be completed in June 2024," Yazzie said, from her understanding. "I just had Michele (Peterson) follow up with Carly (Sapp)." However, the chapter has not received any updates regarding quarterly reports other than the first report since March 2023.

"Nothing new, so far," Michele Peterson, the Shiprock community service coordinator, told the Navajo Times. "Nothing updated yet."

The Times asked Charles-Newton numerous times – through emails and text messages – for an update on the project. The Times didn't receive a response before Tuesday's deadline.

### History overview

On July 25, 1918, Shiprock had a new hotel called the "Lodge at Shiprock," which was owned and operated by Sam Orr and his family when he moved from Aztec to Shiprock, according to a Farmington Times-Hustler article (now Farmington Daily Times).

After that, in 1923, the Bond family formed the Bond Hotel Company, where Karl Ervin Bond and his family operated the hotel, resulting in the Bond company making improvements to the building.

According to the article, the rear porch faced Tsé Bit'a'í and the Rattlesnake oilfield.

In 1928, five years later, the Lodge offered 10 rooms with private baths for \$2.50 a night and 15 rooms for 75 cents a night. Meals were 60 cents, the article reads.

After many years of operation and with various owners, the hotel became known as the Hotel Shiprock or Shiprock Hotel in 1947.

After several months of operation, the hotel burned down by arson on April 5, 1979, according to the article. After that, the hotel was fenced off, and in September 2001, the Navajo Nation demolished the Lodge at Shiprock.

"The new Shiprock hotel/restaurant has been 60 years in the making," Yazzie said. "The last hotel that was open actually burned down, and we had hotels in the past."

Yazzie said people wanted to build hotels over time, but the Navajo Nation wasn't willing to sign the sovereignty waiver. In July 2022, the Navajo Division of Economic Development sales tax grant of \$2.8 million was submitted. Former President Jonathan Nez signed the submittal in October 2022, during which the business unit and contract numbers were also received. The grant was to be disbursed in December 2022.



Future site of new hotel and restaurant in Shiprock.

The report suggests the Sihasin Fund grant for \$11.4 million was submitted in December 2022, which Nez signed in February 2023 – followed by the business unit number in March 2023. The contract number was received two months later, and the funds were disbursed in May 2023.

The report suggests that the Permanent Trust Fund grant for \$8.3 million is pending the 164-approval process before disbursement.

According to Sapp, a re-bid schedule document indicates the timeline for the next few months regarding the project. Based on the timeline, the construction period will begin on April 15 and end on June 8, 2025. Still, Sapp said the next phase is receiving construction bids from interested general contractors.

### Economic growth

The Shiprock area gets an average daily traffic of 12,000 vehicles, according to Yazzie. She said the maximum of vehicles could soar to 35,000 or more, depending on events in the area.

When asked how the new hotel and restaurant would improve the outcome of the community, Yazzie said, "Taking a percentage of that, how many would actually stay at the hotel, we would book rooms every night."

"We (Shiprock Chapter) asked if we could have at least 10 rooms that are for a weekly stay, like a suite," Yazzie continued, "so that any traveling health care workers or anyone that needs a long-term stay, would actually have a suite."

Many of the suggested ideas of how to utilize the rooms, Yazzie said Shiprock Chapter suggested it would allow the opportunity for the dire need of healthcare workers and teachers for hospitals and schools to receive their service and have a place to stay.

"Housing is the number one concern for our community," Yazzie said, referring to a 2019 community survey. "That is what people wanted."

The new hotel and restaurant development ensures job opportunities for the Shiprock community, allowing potential workers to be trained, use their skills, and be close to home.

"Students could get a part-time job or full-time while working at the hotel/restaurant," Yazzie said. "It's all about tourism and capturing those dollars for tax base for our chapter."

Other communities in the Nation have their hotel and restaurants, like Window Rock, Tuba City, Kayenta, Chinle, and upcoming Shonto and Crownpoint.

"We're in high need and could be a massive tourism attraction," Yazzie said. "Because we have people that want to stay in Shiprock."

According to Yazzie, the Shiprock Chapter has been working with the Navajo Tourism Department for a potential tourism center next to the hotel and restaurant.

"They (Tourism) do have the architectural plans for the Shiprock visitor center," Yazzie said. "Those plans are ready to go, but we need construction dollars."

The Navajo Tourism Department didn't respond to the Times's request for comment before Tuesday's deadline.

"We certainly need the hotel," Yazzie said. "A lot of travelers will use it."

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



# Bulletin Board

## Chizh for Cheii keeping homes warm: Loren Anthony says dilk'is challenging to find

**WINDOW ROCK** - Chizh for Cheii is continuing to help Diné homes stay warm this winter.

After 14 years, the Chizh for Cheii organization, which provides free firewood for older Diné men and women, continues to lead by example. Now, it's collaborating with the Navajo Nation.

Seven trucks and a travel trailer were filled with firewood from one of the organization's stockpile sites near Gallup on Feb. 8. The firewood was transported to Nakai Hall in Window Rock. At least 20 volunteers arrived that day to help with "Operation Winter Storm 2024."

The operation started when Chizh for Cheii partnered with the Navajo Department of Emergency Management, the Navajo Police Department, the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, the Navajo Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Navajo Nation Fire and Rescue Services.

### 'Saving lives'

"We're saving lives, and that's the ultimate thing with implementing this plan within our Nation," said the Chizh for Cheii founder Loren Anthony.

"It's all about transparency and understanding one another (by) creating that safe space," said Anthony, who believes the tribal government didn't fulfill many of its promises to the Diné. And because of that, he put k'é into action and initiated his sobriety journey. About 90 percent of the Chizh for Cheii volunteers are either on a sobriety journey or started one.

After quitting his addiction and turning it into a healthy one, Anthony found confidence in delivering firewood to older Diné men and women across the Nation.

Coming from a place of murk and shadow, figuratively speaking, Anthony returned to his home on top of the Chuska Mountains to start his healing path to recovery and sobriety.

What started as a "drunk idea" in 2010 turned into a movement in 2013. Chizh for Cheii was up and running and gained recognition for supporting and providing older Diné men and women needing free firewood help.

"It's a different feeling, and it's something that brings back all those good feelings because I lost my grandparents," said Anthony, who believes elders need to be protected.

Last year, 8,000 loads of firewood were distributed to Diné homes, which would not have been possible without the helping hands of volunteers. This year, Anthony hopes to distribute the same amount or even more.

### Naat'áanii within hooghan

Cutting trees into firewood, loading, transporting, and unloading and reloading them takes time and energy.

"We're going to make sure that we are all accountable—but to also create this healing process of fulfilling our word to the Navajo people and to do our best to make sure this firewood gets to those emergency needs in rural areas," Anthony explained. "It's all accountability because, within all of us, we are our own leaders in our own homes and in our communities."

Anthony expresses that he is proud of the Chizh for Cheii team for stepping up and trekking through the journey of hard work, long hours, and overcoming emotional moments. And growing and believing in the movement to allow it to be what it is now.

Many of the Chizh for Cheii volunteers are Diné and come from communities such as Church Rock, Burnside, Lupton, and Shiprock, among others. Unsurprisingly, many do it out of the pureness of their heart.

"My involvement with Chizh for Cheii (is) working for the community to providing wood for the elders," said Shylah James, a long-time volunteer and an environmental health specialist who has years of community-ed efforts in her field of work.

"It's inspiring and helpful being involved and helping people is a really good feeling," James said.

"When they hug you and thank you, that makes it all worthwhile," said Shawn Curtis, a Navajo Police officer assigned to help with the Navajo Department of Emergency Management.

"Working along with Loren and how passionate he is like, 'Wow, it's off of one person doing everything for the community,'" said Brad Nez, the logistic section deputy for the Navajo DEM. He was integrated from the Navajo Area Office, where he is the inventory management specialist for its emergency management department.

"It inspired me. I am here for the elderly, and I made a few deliveries myself," Nez said. "They're (elderly) so happy to see somebody pull up to their home, showing up with wood, food boxes, and water. Just seeing them happy is heartfelt."



Navajo Times | Boderra Joe  
Chizh for Cheii volunteers smile for a group photo after loading and hauling firewood from a site near Gallup. Volunteers unloaded firewood at Nakai Hall in Window Rock on Feb. 8. Chizh for Cheii and its partner, the Navajo Department of Emergency Management team, will distribute the firewood.

### Náásgóó, dilk'is

Although it takes grit, grind, and sweat to ensure families receive loads of firewood, it takes gas to deliver over long hours.

According to Terry Keyanna, Anthony's "right-hand man" and core member, who has been with the team since 2020, roughly 1,000 chainsaw chains throughout the years were "eaten" up by cedar and Juniper.

Anthony says cedar, Juniper, dilk'is are challenging to find. Families are happy with either, but they want dilk'is.

As for the lájish, the Chizh for Cheii team goes through many heavy-duty, durable work gloves because of the snow and rain. Anthony says waterproof gloves would benefit the Chizh for Cheii crew during cold temperatures when loading firewood.

"I wish I had a helicopter to just drop chizh (at homes)," Anthony said. "I use that as like a thing because your imagination is the reality of the future."

Thinking down the road, Anthony hopes to expand enough to acquire a Chizh for Cheii headquarter office with a fleet of vehicles and trailers. This would create jobs and allow its volunteers to work with the Diné youth.

"Developing those more and having a substance abuse prevention initiative along with an addict support system within the program," Anthony said.

This vision would enable people's employability training to help them get back on their feet and expand this movement to other tribes nationwide. "We're already getting word on other tribes wanting help from how to get things going (for them)," Anthony said.

"People think I am sitting on a pile of firewood waiting for their call," Anthony said. He expresses that people do not see what happens behind the scenes, as there were times his team was on call 24/7 and had to make late-night trips to a home because a family ran out of firewood.

The cost of a truckload or "cord" varies throughout the Navajo Nation. Anthony said prices range from \$60-\$80 in Tuba City, \$300-\$400 in Flagstaff, and \$120-\$160 around the Gallup area.

"We are pretty much giving away a million dollars' worth of firewood, and sometimes people do not want it and want cedar or juniper," Anthony said.

He added that many people don't understand the dedication and time to travel to certain sites to cut, load, and haul.

Chizh for Cheii will continue to ensure elders and families are warm because "if we are cold, our elders are cold. Therefore, we have to keep the fire lit," Anthony added.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/49SVZF6>



# PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Oak Springs, AZ	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coyote Canyon, AZ	30,897.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	42,407.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Jeddito, AZ	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Indian Wells, AZ	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sawmill, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Rock Springs, NM	42,407.28	3/18/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsaile, AZ	30,897.32	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Low Mountain, AZ	42,407.28	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Round Rock, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	42,407.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Round Rock, AZ	30,046.32	3/4/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lake Valley, NM	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Standing Rock, NM	30,897.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tohajiilee, NM	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Torreón, NM	30,046.32	3/1/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tecnospos, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tecnospos, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	42,407.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Cameron, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coppermine, AZ	30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Nageezi, NM	42,407.28	3/13/2024
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	42,407.28	3/15/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Whitehorse Lake, NM	30,046.32	3/15/2024
Office Specialist (S)	Shiprock, NM	30,046.32	3/8/2024

**Capital Projects Management Department**

Registered Architect	Window Rock, AZ	75,585.60	OUF
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(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





## Valentine's Day: February 14, 2024

February 14, 2024

Press Release Number CB24-SFS.21

From the Library of Congress, Today in History - February 14, Valentine's Day:

"On February 14, Americans celebrate love and friendship by exchanging cards, flowers, and candy. Although the origins of Valentine's Day are murky, ancient Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia, a spring festival, on the fifteenth of February. Like so many holidays, a Christian gloss was added to the pagan fete when the holiday moved to the fourteenth of February—the saint day associated with several early Christian martyrs named Valentine.

"The romance we associate with Valentine's Day may spring from the medieval belief that birds select their mates on February 14. During the Middle Ages, lovers recited verse or prose to one another in honor of the day. The Nuremberg Chronicle (published in 1493) is believed to contain the first in-print mention of Saint Valentine, though his role as patron saint of lovers was not mentioned."

### Key Stats

From the Library / Census Infographics & Visualizations / Census Interactive Gallery:

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

## U.S. Marriage and Divorce Rates for Women by State

Introduction

Map

Ranking Table

The marriage and divorce rates are the number of women who got married or divorced within the past 12 months in the United States, per 1,000 women aged 15 and over.

$$\frac{2,052,806 \text{ women married within the last year}}{138,041,976 \text{ women aged 15 and over}} \approx .0149$$

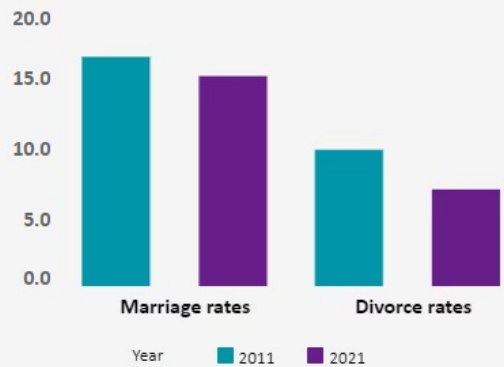
$$.0149 \times 1,000 \approx 14.9$$

The national marriage rate for 2021 was **14.9**. That means that 14.9 out of every 1,000 women aged 15 and over got married in the past 12 months in the United States. The national divorce rate for 2021 was **6.9**.

### Did you know?

The United States marriage and divorce rates both decreased in the last 10 years.

(Per 1,000 women aged 15 and over)



Hover over data in the figures for more details.

(+/- 0.2) Margins of error are shown in parentheses.

Why are the estimates only shown for women?

Note: Statistical comparisons throughout this data visualization are made at the 90 percent confidence level. The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. C8DR8-FY23-0325.

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Bureau

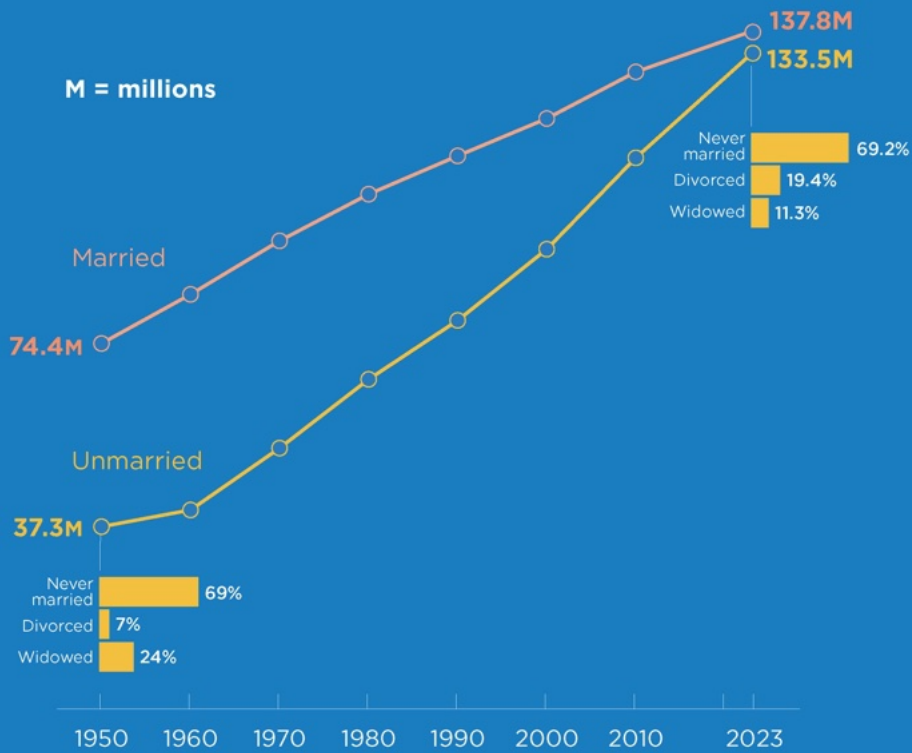
U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: 2011 and 2021 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Tables B12501 and B12503 <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>



# The Single Life

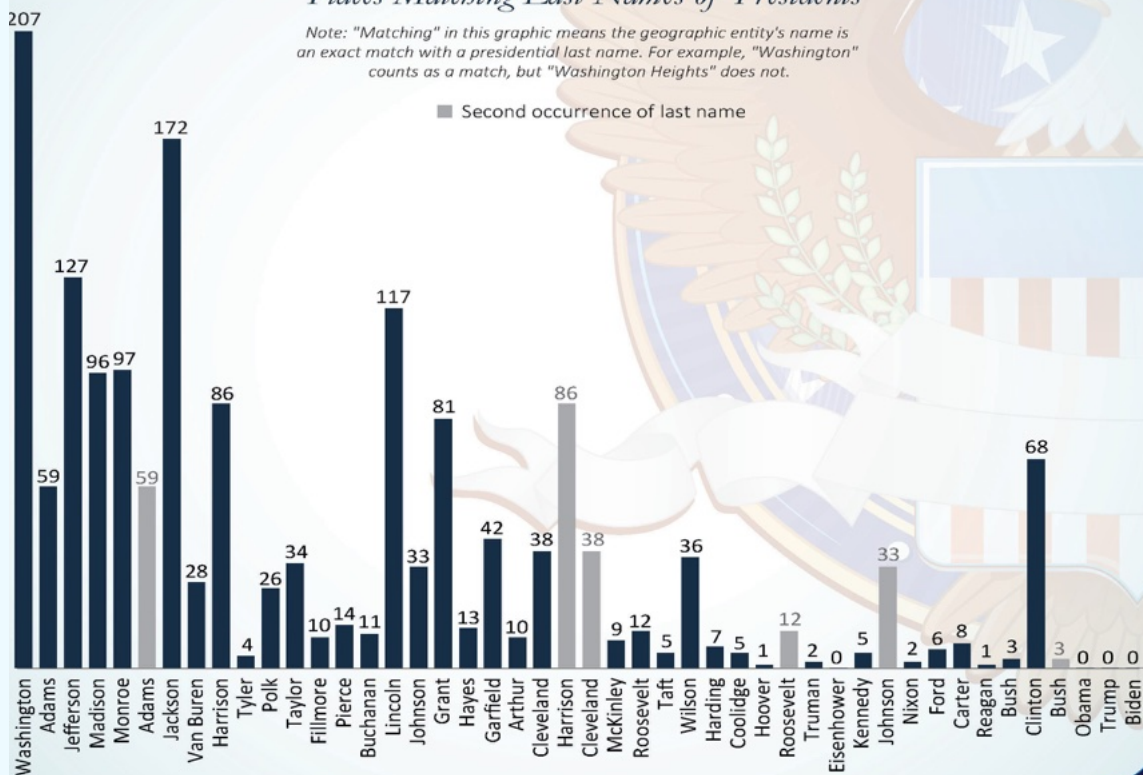
The Gap Between Married and Unmarried Americans Has Narrowed Since 1950



# Presidential Places

Number of Counties, Minor Civil Divisions and Incorporated Places Matching Last Names of Presidents

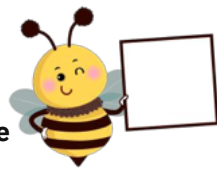
Note: "Matching" in this graphic means the geographic entity's name is an exact match with a presidential last name. For example, "Washington" counts as a match, but "Washington Heights" does not.





## Bee On The Look-Out!

**Misty Reed, Division Chief**  
**Customer Liaison & Marketing Services Office**



The Census Bureau will soon conduct a test for the 2024 Census Survey. The survey's website will go live and first mailouts will begin February 16. While everyone in the test group will receive a letter, every letter will not be identical. Some mailings will contain a QR code and others will not. To increase awareness, respondents will also receive prompts via text messages, which are scheduled to roll out February 26 and March 18.

While everyone will not receive the survey, please be on the look-out!

## [Next Steps on the American Community Survey Disability Questions](#)

Written by:  
Robert L. Santos, Director, U.S. Census Bureau

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation and the only source of local estimates for most of the [40-plus topics](#) it covers. [Adding a question or making a change to the ACS](#) involves extensive testing, review and evaluation over a 5-year period. (The current ACS question revisions under consideration were first proposed in 2018.) Over 25 federal agencies participate in this process and make recommendations to the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy's Subcommittee on the ACS (ICSP-SACS), which is co-chaired by the Chief Statistician of the United States and the U.S. Census Bureau director.

Agencies propose question revisions using rigorous justification criteria motivated by statutory obligations and judicial mandates. This represents the primary purpose for the ACS content, much like the primary purpose for a decennial census is for congressional apportionment (per the U.S. Constitution). But similar to the decennial population enumeration, ACS data have found many critical secondary uses for policymaking, community planning, economic development and local governance to name a few uses.

The process for altering ACS content is designed to help ensure that any proposed changes are necessary and will produce quality, useful information for the nation. An important step in the process is providing an opportunity for the public to provide feedback. We do this through publishing a series of Federal Register notices that invite public comments on proposed changes and methods. We then consider that feedback in developing a final content revision recommendation for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

On behalf of the Census Bureau, the ICSP-SACS, and the entire federal statistical system that relies on ACS data, we'd like to thank you for your interest in the ACS program and sharing your feedback on the most recent proposed changes. Soliciting feedback is a crucial step in our process. [Click here to continue.](#)

## [2024 Event Calendar](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product scheduled for release in 2024.

## [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 Webinars**

### [Diving into Island Areas Cross Tabulations on data.census.gov](#)

**Thursday, February 22**  
**Time: 2:00PM EST**

With the release of 2020 Island Areas Cross Tabulations data, data users can now find data about people or housing units by characteristics like age, educational attainment, occupation, earnings and income, marital status, and over 50 other topics. Data for American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Join this webinar to learn more about what Island Areas Cross Tabulated data are available, and how to access them through the Census Bureau's main data platform, [data.census.gov](#).

### [Exploring the Diversity and Growth of the Asian American Population](#)

**Thursday, February 22**  
**Time: 2:00PM EST**

Did you know there are more than 24 million people who identified as Asian alone or in combination in the 2020 Census? And the largest Asian group, which grew by over 50 percent are Asian Indians. Join us to discover the diverse and growing Asian population. Build your knowledge to paint a local portrait of Asian Americans including where they live, which industry sector they work in, homeownership rates, business ownership, and more.





## Upcoming Releases

### 2030 Preparation

#### Initial Strategies for 2030 Census Preparations

The Census Bureau plans to release five strategy documents outlining how it plans to carry out the next decennial census. The strategies cover the Census Bureau's approach for conducting a complete count, designing operations, developing the IT solution, sourcing contracts and engaging with stakeholders for the 2030 Census. (Tentatively scheduled for release in February.)

#### New Report on the Nation's Foreign-Born Population

The U.S. Census Bureau will release new data products highlighting select demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the nation's foreign-born population. The Foreign-Born Population 2022 report compares 2010 and 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates to provide insight into the changing composition of the foreign-born population in the United States. The Highlights of the Foreign-Born Population data visualization displays 2018-2022 ACS 5-year estimates about the foreign-born population at various levels of geography, including national, state and county. (Tentatively scheduled for release February 21.)

### 2020 Census

#### Detailed DHC-B Proof of Concept

January 29 – The Census Bureau released a proof of concept and hosted a webinar and for the [2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File B \(Detailed DHC-B\)](#) for public review and feedback. The Detailed DHC-B includes household type and tenure data for approximately 1,500 detailed racial and ethnic groups and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. This proof of concept illustrates the proposed 2020 Census Detailed DHC-B data product design and disclosure avoidance settings using 2010 Census data. **A 30-day public feedback period on the proof of concept concludes February 28.** The final Detailed DHC-B based on 2020 Census data will be released in September 2024. Learn more from the [webinar](#) on January 29.

#### Economic

#### 2020 Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics Data

February 8 – The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics (NES-D). Included in this release are demographic data by urban and rural classification, receipt size of firm and legal form of organization plus characteristics of nonemployer business owners. The NES-D is an annual statistical series that uses existing administrative records and census data to link demographic characteristics to the universe of nonemployer businesses.

#### Census Business Builder Version 5.4

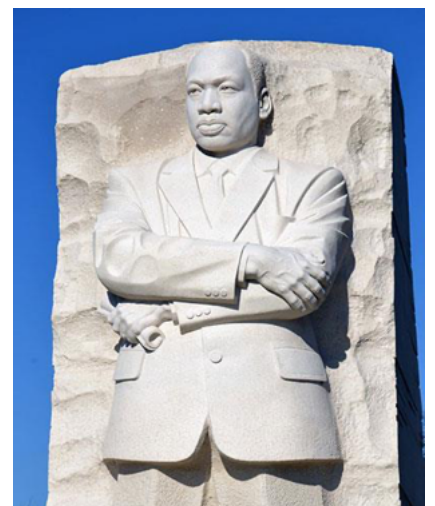
February 1 – The U.S. Census Bureau released version 5.4 of the Census Business Builder tool. This update features a new enhancement that allows users to evaluate declared disaster areas and their impacts. CBB v5.4 also includes enhancements to existing functionality and the latest data available. More information on Census Business Builder is available [online](#).

### National Black (African American) History Month: February 2024

Historian Carter G. Woodson launched Black History Week in 1926 to recognize the significant contributions of African Americans during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and abolitionist/writer Frederick Douglass (February 14). Congress expanded it to National Black History Month 50 years later during the nation's bicentennial celebration at which time then-President Gerald Ford urged the country to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

The following facts are possible thanks to the invaluable responses to U.S. Census Bureau surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we measure America's people, places and economy.

[Click here to view facts!](#)







# ATTENTION

## DCD ARPA Telephones:

Paulene Thomas	(928)551-8935
Edwin Begay	(505)870-6252
Dawnell Begay	(928)551-8941
Ryan Begay	(928)551-8947

**You may contact us Monday-  
Friday 8:00 am-5:00pm**



**MAIN: (928) 871-7182**

**WWW.NNDCD.ORG**

**Housing Improvement Program**

Bldg #8229 Field House Road  
Fort Defiance, Arizona

**Rita M. Begay**  
**Program Manager I**  
P.O. Box 527  
Fort Defiance, AZ

Phone No.# (928) 729-4017  
Fax No.# (928) 729-4277

**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY**  
Housing Improvement Program  
Bldg# 8229 Field House Road  
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504

Phone No.# (928) 729-4017  
Fax No.# (928) 729-4277

**CHINLE AGENCY**  
Bldg #2492 SW of Chapter House  
Chinle, Arizona 86503

Phone No.# (928) 674-2260  
Fax No.# (928) 674-2266

**WESTERN AGENCY**  
**CLOSED**  
contact Chinle Agency Office.

**EASTERN AND SHIPROCK AGENCY**  
**CLOSED**  
contact Fort Defiance Agency Office.

# HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HIP)

**Community Housing & Infrastructure Department – CHID**

**Division of Community Development**



Contact any of the HIP Agency Office for additional information or to obtain housing assistance application.

Application can be downloaded from the DCD Website:  
[nndcd.org](http://nndcd.org)

The **Housing Improvement Program (HIP)** is federally funded by P.L. 93-638 contracts. The program is to improve the living standards by providing decent, safe and sanitary homes within the territorial boundaries of the Navajo Nation. HIP provides housing assistance through home repairs, renovation, and replacement of existing house or new construction to assist very-low-income families and/or individual.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Total annual household income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines.
- Enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe.
- Lives in an approved Navajo Tribal service area.
- Present housing is substandard.
- Has no other resource for housing assistance.
- Has not received assistance from HIP for repairs, renovation, replacement and new housing, or down payment assistance.
- Has not received any other type of federal government sponsored housing program assistance over the previous 20-year period.
- Down Payment Assistance available to eligible borrowers to participate in HIP. The applicant must still meet all the eligibility requirements. A letter from the funding institution that specifies the down payment amount and closing costs required to qualify for the loan must be provided.

**Application Requirement**

Complete housing assistance application must be fully complete and sign and date. Provide required documents.

- Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) and Social Security Card; for all permanent household members.
- Provide proof of all income for all permanent members of the household.
  - Award letters from social security, general assistance, retirement, unemployment benefits and other unearned income.
  - Signed copies of current 1040 tax returns, including W-2s, if filed.
  - Signed notarized statement explaining why you did not file a tax return.
  - Signed notarized statement of how you support yourself, if you are reporting no income received.
- Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts.
- If claiming disability, provide a Doctor's statement or documents verifying disability.
- Must have a finalized and approved home site lease in your name.
- Cultural Resource Compliance Form & Archaeological Inventory Report
- Proof of Veteran status (veterans' card, discharge forms, DD214)

All permanent household members over the age of eighteen (18) years is required to provide and complete all income verification forms.

All applications are reviewed to determine if you are eligible. Eligible applicants are ranked in order of need, from highest to lowest, based on the total numeric priority ranking points outlined in the 25 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 256.14. The application can be carried over into next fiscal year but the applicant must submit an undated information form and provide income documentation for all permanent household members.

Housing assistance applications are available beginning February ending September 30. To obtain an application, call your local agency office.

**25 C.F.R., Part 256  
HIP REGULATIONS REVISIONS;  
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 10, 2015**

**NEW RANKING POINTS**

- **Annual Household Income**
- **Aged Person;**
- **Disabled Individual;**
- **Dependent Children;**
- **Veteran;**
- **Homeless;**
- **Overcrowded;**
- **Dilapidated House;**
- **Down Payment Assistance;** Applicant must meet all HIP requirements and must be eligible. Applicant must be approved for a home with a bank or mortgage company.



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