

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

June 2024

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### Did You Know...

Lilakai (Lily) Julian Neil (1900 - 1961) was the first woman elected to the Navajo Tribal Council. After a serious automobile accident, she withdrew from public service.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/4eHxNsm>

### Events:

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

June 14: Flag Day

June 16: Father's Day

June 19: Juneteenth

June 20: Summer Solstice

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

July 1-3: Navajo Chapter Technology Conference

Fourth of July: Independence Day

July 26: National System Administrator Appreciation Day

## Navajo President Buu Nygren signs 'monumental' ARPA legislation to leverage funds, double amount infrastructure projects to be built



June 19, 2024

Official Office of the President and Vice President Press Release.

CONTACT: George Hardeen, Public Relations Director

Email: [george.hardeen@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:george.hardeen@navajo-nsn.gov)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren on Tuesday signed long-awaited legislation that will use American Rescue Plan Act funding to create a new funding mechanism to leverage financing to nearly double the amount of infrastructure to be built across the Nation.

Passed June 5 by the Navajo Nation Council, the legislation will place \$521.8 million of ARPA funding into a newly created Revenue Replacement Reserve.

Next, the Council will consider legislation to create a trust fund where the Revenue Replacement Reserve will be placed.

That will allow the Nation to borrow money against the fund with the intention of having enough money to increase the amount of projects that can be built.

"It's the first time the Navajo Nation has taken federal money, come up with creative solutions to convert it to our own money that's unrestricted," President Nygren said. "The main thing is we got it done. We took off the timelines and now we can have a little bit of breathing room."



He said this legislation saves upwards of \$150 million for chapter regional projects and eliminates looming time constraints.

"So there's no deadlines and they can get all those projects done," the President said. "We have an additional \$63 million for housing and \$137 million for needed waste- water treatment plants that will enable real economic development."

Read More: <https://bit.ly/4bq0d7r>



June 2024

## New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Funds Awarded to Two Navajo Nation Projects

June 12-13, 2024—The New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund board has awarded \$63.5 million in funding across 12 tribes for 13 communities in New Mexico. The funds were approved by the Tribal Infrastructure Act of 2005, which recognizes that many of New Mexico's tribal communities lack basic infrastructure, resulting in poor health, social and economic conditions.

### Evaluation Process:

The TIF board evaluates and scores each project proposal to ensure the critical needs are established. Proposals were submitted via the New Mexico TIF web portal in March 2024. Projects were reviewed and ranked, and the top 17 were selected for presentation.



### Presentations and Approval:

Presentations took place at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Presenters included various Pueblos and tribes such as San Ildefonso, Acoma, Pojoaque, Santo Domingo, Santa Ana, Ohkay Owingeh, Taos, Mescalero Apache, Cochiti, Sandia, Santa Clara, Littlewater Chapter, and the Navajo Nation. The TIF board voted to approve the projects and their respective funding amounts.

### The following two Navajo Navajo projects were funded this year:

Littlewater Chapter received \$1,302,702 for the construction of the Beacon Bisti Lateral Regional Water Supply Project, SCADA Component. The project was presented by Ms. Genevieve Castillo, Community Service Coordinator from Littlewater Chapter

Tsehootsoo Judicial and Public Safety Center and Medical Examiners was allocated \$1,622,299.08 which will partially fund the design of the Project. The project was presented by Dr. Delores Greyeyes, Corrections Director of the Navajo Department of Corrections, Division of Public Safety



### Project Presentation Focus:

Each project presentation highlighted the critical need, project readiness, capacity, leveraging, budget, and anticipated outcomes.



# Thoreau Senior Center Undergoes Major Renovation

Thoreau, NM – The Thoreau Senior Center recently completed a comprehensive renovation, thanks to the expert work of Arviso Construction and a budget of one million dollars. This significant investment has brought numerous improvements to the facility, ensuring it remains a welcoming and functional space for the community's seniors.

## Key Renovations Include:

**New Kitchen Flooring and Metal Roof:** The kitchen received a fresh look with new flooring, enhancing both its appearance and durability. Additionally, the entire building is now protected by a complete new metal roof, ensuring long-lasting protection against the elements.

**Dining Room Transformation:** The dining room underwent a major transformation, with the ceiling lowered and fitted with a suspended ceiling. This not only improves the room's aesthetics but also enhances its acoustics and energy efficiency.

**Updated Electrical Systems:** The center's electrical branch circuits were rerouted and updated to meet current code standards, ensuring the safety and reliability of the building's electrical system.

**Water Line Rerouting:** To prevent freezing, the water line was rerouted to run under the building. This proactive measure will help avoid potential issues during colder months.

**Enhanced Kitchen Accessibility:** The kitchen now features commercial grade appliances, new 4-foot-wide metal door refrigerator and freezer improving accessibility and functionality for staff and visitors.



**New Parking Lot and Outdoor Amenities:** The building received a brand-new parking lot, providing ample space for visitors. Additionally, a new gazebo offers a pleasant outdoor space for relaxation and socialization.



**Entertainment Upgrades:** The center now boasts a new TV with a DVD player, allowing for movie nights and other entertainment options. A new billiards table and accessories have also been added, providing a fun and engaging activity for the seniors.



These renovations have significantly enhanced the Thoreau Senior Center, ensuring it remains a vibrant and inviting place for the community's elderly members. The improvements not only address practical needs but also contribute to the overall quality of life for the seniors who use the facility.

The Thoreau Senior Center extends their heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Leonard Hardy, CPMD Project Manager, Arviso Construction, NM Senator George Munoz and NM Representative Harry Garica for their dedication and expertise in bringing this project to fruition. The Thoreau Senior Center is now better equipped than ever to serve its community, thanks to this impressive renovation effort.

For more information about the Thoreau Senior Center and its programs, please contact Beth Miller, Thoreau Senior Center Supervisor.



# Smith Lake Senior Center Renovation Nears Completion

Smith Lake, NM – Exciting progress is underway at the Smith Lake Senior Center as Arviso Construction nears the completion of a significant renovation project. With a budget of \$792,000, this project aims to enhance the facilities and services available to our seniors, providing them with a comfortable and modern environment.

The renovation includes several upgrades designed to improve the daily experiences of the center's visitors:



**New Kitchen:** The center's kitchen has been completely revamped. It now features a new range with a hood and exhaust system, a three-compartment sink, a new freezer, and a refrigerator. These upgrades will facilitate better meal preparation and food storage, ensuring that the seniors receive nutritious and delicious meals.



**Laundry Room:** A new laundry room equipped with a washer and dryer has been added. This addition will provide convenience and ease for the center's operations, allowing for the efficient management of linens and clothing.



**Parking Lot and Sidewalks:** The renovation project also includes the construction of a new parking lot and a perimeter sidewalk. The sidewalk will enable our elderly community members to enjoy safe and accessible walks around the building, promoting physical activity and well-being.

The renovation is in its final stages, with the pre-final inspection completed on June 26, 2024. Mr. Leonard Hardy, CPMD Project Manager, and Arviso Construction has worked diligently to ensure that the project meets all the necessary standards and provides a high-quality space for the Smith Lake seniors.

Stay tuned for updates on the grand opening celebration, where everyone will welcome to see the wonderful enhancements firsthand.



For more information, please contact the Smith Lake Senior Center administration.





# To' Nanees' Dizi Senior Center Construction Update: 25% Completion Milestone Reached

Tuba City, AZ - The To' Nanees' Dizi Senior Center construction project has reached a significant milestone, with 25% of the work now completed. This 6,300 square foot facility is poised to become a cornerstone of community support and engagement, providing essential services and a gathering space for the senior population of the To' Nanees' Dizi Chapter.



Funding for this vital project comes from the Navajo Nation Sihasin Funds, specifically allotted by CAP 35-18. The total amount designated for the senior center's construction is \$3,791,684.40. This financial support underscores the Navajo Nation's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its elders, ensuring they have access to a modern and well-equipped facility.

The project is being expertly managed by Andy Thomas from the Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD). Under his leadership, the construction is progressing smoothly, with a dedicated team working diligently to meet project milestones and ensure the facility meets the highest standards.



The senior center will feature a range of amenities designed to meet the diverse needs of the community's elderly members. These include spaces for social activities, educational programs, and health services, all aimed at promoting wellness and fostering a sense of belonging among seniors.

As construction progresses, the To' Nanees' Dizi Chapter eagerly anticipates the completion of this much-needed facility. The project is a testament to the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, including community leaders, contractors, and funding bodies, all working together to create a supportive environment for the chapter's senior residents.



More updates will follow as the To' Nanees' Dizi Senior Center moves closer to its completion, bringing with it the promise of improved services and a strengthened community.



June 2024

# Housing Improvement Program Information

Community Housing Infrastructure Department  
Fort Defiance, AZ 86504  
Phone# 928.729.4319  
Fax# 928.729.4277  
email: [rbegay@nnchid.org](mailto:rbegay@nnchid.org)  
2nd email: [rmbegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rmbegay@navajo-nsn.gov)

HIP Program Office Fort Defiance ---->  
Google maps location  
PWPJ+2P  
Fort Defiance, AZ, USA



<----HIP Program Office Chinle  
Google maps location  
5C3Q+8W  
Chinle, Arizona

HIP Program Office Crownpoint ----->  
Google maps location  
MVM2+83  
Crownpoint, New Mexico





June 2024

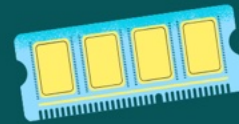
# 10 TIPS

## FOR CHOOSING A LAPTOP & THINGS TO CHECK FIRST



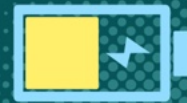
**1** Select an operating system that best for you

**2** Determine RAM size



**3** Select the storage media type

**4** Note the battery capacity



**5** Check laptop's camera specification

**6** Pay attention to the quality of the keyboard and touchpad



**7** Check the number of ports

**8** Check screen specifications



**9** Select size and shape

**10** Adjust the budget



Check here: <https://bit.ly/4brSs00>



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

## June Highlights

Throughout June, our Administrative Services Center (ASC) locations were diligently providing services to the 110 chapters across the Navajo Nation.

This month, the chapters focused on budgeting their FY24 Navajo Nation Sales Tax and Unhealthy Food & Beverage Sales Tax funds. Our ASC locations were there every step of the way, ensuring compliance, reviewing budget documents, and routing them through the appropriate channels to facilitate the release of funds.

Each day, our field staff at local offices assisted chapters in various areas, including on-site monitoring of operations for compliance with Navajo Nation laws and policies, implementing Corrective Action Plans, and supporting chapters with vacant personnel positions.

As we approach the end of this fiscal year, the Administrative Services Centers remain bustling with activity.



Whitecone Chapter Strategic Planning Session  
(Twin Arrows, AZ)

| ASC Office:    | Date of Meeting | Meeting Location:                       | Meeting/Training Description:                   |
|----------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Crownpoint ASC | 5/29/2024       | Google meet                             | ASC staff meeting-Jaron Charley, Arbin Mitchell |
| Shiprock ASC   | 6/4/2024        | Red Valley Chapter                      | Red Valley CLUPC                                |
| Shiprock ASC   | 6/5/2024        | Virtual via Google Meet                 | Weekly Staff Meeting                            |
| Shiprock ASC   | 6/6/2024        | Nenahnezad                              | CLUPC Meeting                                   |
| Dilkon ASC     | 6/6/2024        | Twin Arrow Casino Resort-Trucker Lounge | White Cone Chapter Strategic Planning Session   |
| Crownpoint ASC | 6/5/2024        | Google meet                             | ASC weekly staff meeting                        |
| Shiprock ASC   | 6/10/2024       | Google Meet                             | Monthly Staff Meeting                           |
| Chinle ASC     | 6/12/2024       | Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort        | B&F and RDC Committee Work Session              |
| Shiprock ASC   | 6/18/2024       | Google Meet                             | CAP Update Work Session                         |



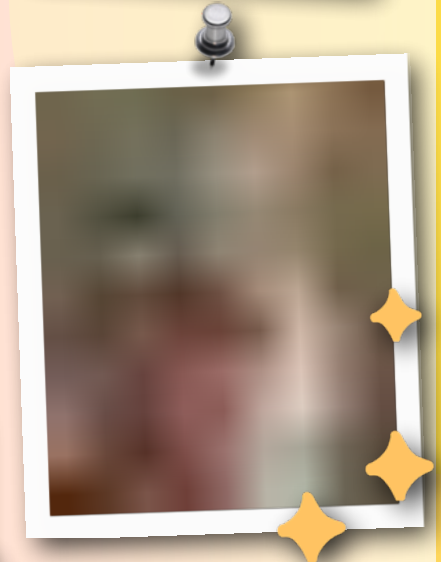


*This month, the Administrative Services Centers held a two-day work session where all eight of our local offices gathered to discuss important topics like department updates, goals, the current budget season, upcoming chapter budgets, ARPA projects, and, of course, some team building.*

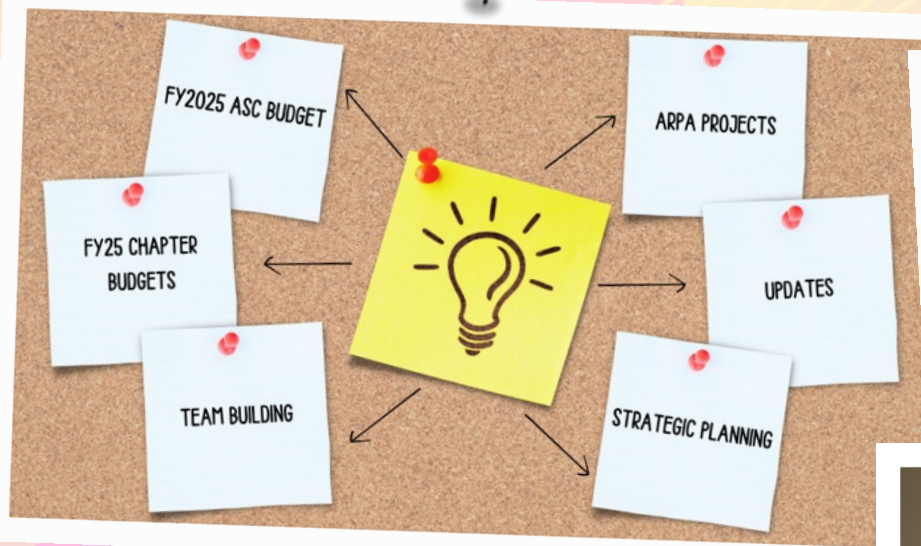
*Fueled by refreshments from the Window Rock Bashas' and a single small but mighty Keurig, the ASC staff convened at the NDOT building in Tse Bonito, NM. We hashed out various items to gauge our department's operations and objectives as we near the end of this fiscal year.*

*The event featured some team-building activities that not only challenged us but also revealed how we each approach challenges as individuals. Let's just say, we've learned a lot about each other's problem-solving styles—some of us are strategists, some are improvisers, and some are... still figuring it out!*

*Overall, the two-day work session was jam-packed with information, and the ASC staff are now recalibrated and ready to tackle the rest of the fiscal year with renewed vigor.*





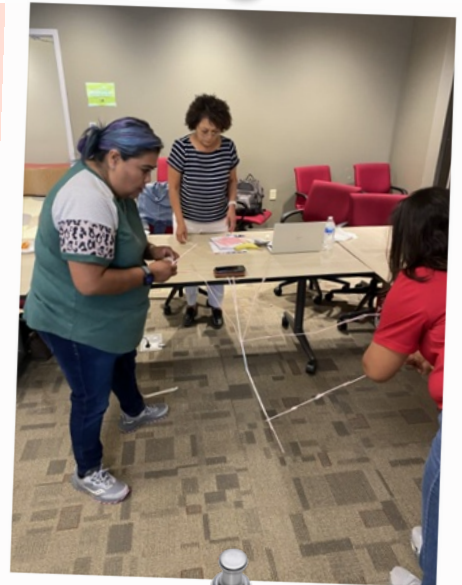


*During our 2-day work session, the ASC received important updates from our Executive Director Arbin Mitchell, Ms. Sharilene Jeff (DCD SPPS), while our Division IT Team (Norbert Nez & Sylvia Jordan) provided updates regarding the upcoming DCD Technology Conference.*

*The main focus of our session was on internal budgeting processes, planning budget work sessions for FY25 Chapter funding, and refining our program budget process. This collaborative effort is key to ensuring our financial planning is thorough and effective as we move forward.*

*To balance the hard work and serious discussions of our program objectives, we engaged in fun team building activities.*

*One highlight was an egg drop challenge, where teams of staff were tasked with building structures around an egg to prevent breakage from a two-story drop. Another favorite was the straw plank building challenge, which involved constructing a structure using only tape and straws to extend as far as possible from a ledge. These activities not only provided a fun break but also helped staff learn and adapt to each other's problem-solving strategies.*





## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS



## Staff Updates

### ***Celebrating Excellence: Ms. Tia Yazzie Awarded ASC's Employee of the Quarter***

***In recognition of her continuous assistance and dedication to the betterment of the department, Ms. Tia Yazzie was presented with the award of Employee of the Quarter for ASC.***

***Ms. Yazzie is a vital part of the proper flow of documents from our ASC Sub Offices. Her ability to multi task and properly file the work flow addresses a key element that sustains the ASC department.***

***Not only is her work of great quality, but so is her friendly and accommodating personality as she greets every person whom contacts the office. Her customer services rates amongst the highest as well, and this is recognized by all whom have contacted her. Please assist me in congratulating Ms. Yazzie and thanking her for her many contributions to the Administrative Services Center Department.***

***- Jaron Charley, ASC Department Manager II***





# Welcome New Staff!

We're pleased to share some great news in this month's newsletter: our team has grown. We've welcomed new members who are dedicated to serving our communities.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest team members. These individuals bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our organization, and we are delighted to have them on board. Their roles are crucial to our mission of providing essential services to communities across the Navajo Nation.

| <b>Staff Name:</b>        | <b>Office:</b>      | <b>Position:</b>  |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Andrea Chato</b>       | Chinle ASC          | Office Specialist |
| <b>Evangeline Tachine</b> | Torreon Chapter     | CSC               |
| <b>Flora Gus</b>          | Lake Valley Chapter | AMS               |
| <b>Jay E. Chee</b>        | Tsayatoh Chapter    | CSC               |
| <b>Jennifer Ruskin</b>    | Dilkon ASC          | Office Specialist |
| <b>Katrina Hadley</b>     | Teecnospos Chapter  | AMS               |
| <b>Madelena Yazzie</b>    | Oak Springs Chapter | CSC - Temp        |

Our ASC Department and chapters are looking forward to integrating these valuable additions into our team. We anticipate the positive impact they will bring under the Division of Community Development.

Let's give a warm welcome to our new team members, and here's to the bright future ahead as we continue our journey of service and community empowerment together!





# ASC Directory Updates



| <b>Position:</b>       | <b>Staff Name:</b>   | <b>Email:</b>  | <b>Phone:</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------|
| ASC Department Manager | Jaron Charley        | <a href="mailto:jcharley@nndcd.org">jcharley@nndcd.org</a>     | 928-270-3718  |
| Gallup ASC SPPS        | Guarena Adeky        | <a href="mailto:gadeky@nndcd.org">gadeky@nndcd.org</a>         | 928-270-3787  |
| Gallup ASC ASO         | Myrna M. James       | <a href="mailto:mmjames@nndcd.org">mmjames@nndcd.org</a>       | 928-270-3813  |
| Chinle ASC SPPS        | Edgerton Gene        | <a href="mailto:egene@nndcd.org">egene@nndcd.org</a>           | 928-270-3841  |
| Chinle ASC ASO         | Robert Jumbo         | <a href="mailto:rjumbo@nndcd.org">rjumbo@nndcd.org</a>         | 928-270-3851  |
| Crownpoint ASC SPPS    | Tyrone Begay         | <a href="mailto:tjbegay@nndcd.org">tjbegay@nndcd.org</a>       | 928-270-3853  |
| Crownpoint ASC ASO     | Cecelia Toledo       | <a href="mailto:ctoledo@nndcd.org">ctoledo@nndcd.org</a>       | 928-270-3854  |
| Dilkon ASC SPPS        | Eunice Begay         | <a href="mailto:ejbegay@nndcd.org">ejbegay@nndcd.org</a>       | 928-270-3863  |
| Dilkon ASC ASO         | Toni Mina            | <a href="mailto:tmina@nndcd.org">tmina@nndcd.org</a>           | 928-270-3865  |
| Fort Defiance ASC SPPS | Patricia Begay       | <a href="mailto:pdbegay@nndcd.org">pdbegay@nndcd.org</a>       | 928-270-3868  |
| Fort Defiance ASC ASO  | Derek Echohawk       | <a href="mailto:ddechohawk@nndcd.org">ddechohawk@nndcd.org</a> | 928-270-3877  |
| Kayenta ASC SPPS       | Calvin Tsosie        | <a href="mailto:cetsosie@nndcd.org">cetsosie@nndcd.org</a>     | 928-270-3884  |
| Kayenta ASC ASO        | Elaine Benally       | <a href="mailto:ebenally@nndcd.org">ebenally@nndcd.org</a>     | 928-270-3891  |
| Shiprock ASC SPPS      | Eliza-Beth Washburne | <a href="mailto:eliza-beth@nndcd.org">eliza-beth@nndcd.org</a> | 928-270-3893  |
| Tuba City ASC SPPS     | Milford Maloney      | <a href="mailto:mmaloney@nndcd.org">mmaloney@nndcd.org</a>     | 928-270-3911  |
| Tuba City ASC ASO      | Kristen Charley      | <a href="mailto:kcharley@nndcd.org">kcharley@nndcd.org</a>     | 928-270-3912  |

**You may contact us Monday - Friday**

**8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**MAIN: (928) 871-6221**

**WWW.NNDCD.ORG**



# Bulletin Board

## Grand opening of the Ganado Senior and Veterans Center marks a new era of community support

GANADO, Ariz. – The community of Ganado, Arizona, celebrated a historic milestone with the grand opening of the new Ganado Senior and Veterans Center. This momentous event, attended by the 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalline Curley and Council Delegate Vince James, signified a significant achievement in providing dedicated resources and support for the elderly and veterans in the region.

"The opening of the Ganado Senior and Veterans Center is a landmark event for our community," said Delegate James. "This center represents years of dedication and hard work by many individuals and organizations. It stands as a beacon of support and care for our elders and veterans, ensuring they have access to the resources they deserve."

The new facility, a testament to the unwavering efforts of Navajo Nation leadership over many years, offers a variety of behavioral health programs designed to benefit the community. These programs included therapeutic activities such as therapy sessions and arts and crafts, providing a space for the elderly and veterans to express themselves and build connections with one another.

The opening ceremony began with prayers and songs within the newly constructed center.

Elders gathered around smoldering wood and cedar, filling the building with a fragrant smoke that blessed every corner of the space. The gentle wind and joyous atmosphere further elevated the significance of this special day.

Lawrence Lano, a respected community member and veteran, blessed several flags donated by dignitaries,



expressing profound gratitude for the community's collective efforts and the generous donation of land that made the center's construction possible.

The ceremony concluded with a cleansing rain that symbolically set a harmonious tone for the future of the center. The event underscored the successful collaboration that brought the project to fruition ahead of schedule, despite some equipment delays.

The Ganado Senior and Veterans Center will host various scheduled activities and programs for seniors, welcome veterans and seniors from the surrounding community, and provide essential counseling and outreach services

through the VA. The center's design and purpose reflect the community's commitment to honoring and supporting the elderly and veterans.

The leadership and support from numerous dignitaries, including the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Apache County Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd, former Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, and many dedicated community members, were crucial in realizing this project. Their contributions and the ongoing support from various stakeholders highlighted the community's dedication to enhancing the well-being of its seniors and veterans.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/4ciiwws>

## Teec Nos Pos gathers for blessing of new gravel pit for safer roads

TEEC NOS POS, Ariz. – The community of Teec Nos Pos gathered and celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the Carrizo Pit on June 20.

To build safer and more reliable roads for dozens of communities, it starts with getting gravel pits opened. The gravel pit allows road developers to have a road aggregate nearby to build sites.

Apache County and Navajo Nation have been working for about two decades to push forward the gravel pit initiatives with the help of former Presidents Russell Begaye and Joe Shirley.

President Shirley, now the Apache County Supervisor for District 1, was instrumental in seeing the process through.

After the ribbon-cutting, chapter leaders and community members gathered for a reception celebration to honor key contributors to the project.

"This is only the first of many gravel pits that I hope we open across the Navajo Nation," Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. "I'm committed to ensuring our roadways are safe for families, commuters and emergency responders. Many of our families travel hours to get to work or school. They need safe roads – our



families who have frequent hospital visits need to get there safely. During the winter,

families need safe roads to haul wood and get home. That all starts here."

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4eAPOAB>



# Bulletin Board

## Navajo Film Fest allows unique storytelling, Countless stories of Dine can be shared through filmmaking



Navajo Times | Kianna Joe

The Audience Choice Award was awarded to Lincoln Mark during the 2023 Navajo Film Festival at San Juan College's Henderson Fine Arts Center in Farmington July 23. Mark also received an honorable mention for his film "Between Worlds," featuring shots he took of his home community of Shiprock and where he works in Washington, D.C.

Navajo Times | Kianna Joe  
FARMINGTON

Diné Wizard can make or break a film at this special festival, unlike other film fests.

The Navajo Film Fest is an annual event that recognizes and searches for talented filmmakers who have been producing films or beginners who have just started. The film fest culminates its festivities by awarding the best films in adult, junior, and audience choice categories. This year's film fest reigned close to home at San Juan College's Henderson Theater, featuring filmmakers and live performances.

Tacey Atsitty is the film fest's director. She flew in from Florida to continue holding a space that amplifies Diné Bizaad and Diné creativity.

In a conversation with a friend, Atsitty remembered her friend who said there are ideas in languages that only exist in that specific language. That type of logic and thinking became the spark behind the Navajo Film Fest.

Atsitty explained that when languages are lost, those ideas that are only available in that language are also lost.

"It was to cultivate a cache of films where it's not just those of us who have taken Navajo language, still not as fluent as where we want to be, it's a little bit more than, 'Yáát'ééh, aoo' yáát'ééh, ha'át'íish baa naniná, baa shiil hózhó.' It's a little bit more than that. It creates a space for people to create these films but also to hear them in different situations," said Atsitty.

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

## Majority of Navajo Nation Chapters approve optional Virtual Attendance at Chapter meetings

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Effective June 25, 2024, the majority of Navajo Nation Chapters have acted to amend Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow for a Virtual Attendance option at Chapter meetings.

"Chapters now have the right to choose whether they will allow virtual attendance or not. Chapters that do choose to implement hybrid/virtual attendance must now adopt their own virtual meeting policies," Speaker Crystalyn Curley said. "This resolution provides a resource to address issues like meeting quorum, meeting attendance, and increase community engagement."

The amendments made in CO-85-23 permit each chapter to decide what type of attendance will be allowed at its chapter meetings, either in-person or hybrid/virtual. The amendments do not force each chapter to implement virtual attendance. Each chapter now has the option to either allow virtual attendance or not.

CO-85-23 does not automatically allow all 110 Chapters to hold virtual chapter meetings.

Those chapters who intend to implement the virtual attendance need to complete the two-step amendment process. Each chapter will need to pass another chapter resolution to allow virtual chapter meetings. Chapters that do not pass a Resolution/Ordinance to approve



virtual chapter meetings cannot hold a virtual chapter meeting.

Chapters need to have their policies and procedures attached to their resolution. The Department of Justice - Chapter Unit is currently working on a policies and procedures template that chapters could utilize.

The legislation allowing Virtual Attendance at Chapter meetings was approved by the Navajo Nation Council during the 2023 Fall Council Session and was vetoed by President Nygren on Nov. 3, 2023. The Presidential veto was overridden by the Navajo Nation Council during the 2024 Winter Council Session on Jan. 29, 2024.

Council Delegate Vince James, who sponsored the initial legislation, said he left the decision to be made by the Navajo Nation Chapters, knowing that they understand how important virtual attendance can be as it was used throughout the pandemic.

"This resolution provides an addition to our Title 26 Codes to include an option for virtual attendance participation for each chapter to utilize, and to create a virtual attendance policy,"

Delegate James said. "Virtual attendance at chapter meetings will be beneficial to establishing quorum, affording rights to every citizen to be part of the government, keeping our leadership accountable, and promoting transparency of the local government."

Delegate James congratulates all Navajo Nation Chapters for a job well done in providing resolutions to add the new language to Title 26.

The Office of Legislative Counsel has verified the 56 chapter resolutions and virtual attendance at chapter meetings is now allowable if chapters chose to adopt this option.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3XL9V16>



# Bulletin Board

## 100 years ago, US citizenship for Native Americans came without voting rights in swing states



An exhibit at the New Mexico History Museum dedicated to Miguel Trujillo who successfully challenged New Mexico's ban on voting by Native Americans.

Author: Associated Press  
Updated: 5:37 PM PDT June 1, 2024  
Facebook

SANTA FE, N.M. – Voter participation advocate Theresa Pasqual traverses Acoma Pueblo with a stack of sample ballots in her car and applications for absentee ballots, handing them out at every opportunity ahead of New Mexico's Tuesday primary.

Residents of the tribal community's original mesa-top "sky city" that endured after the Spanish invasion in the late 1500s know firsthand the challenges voters have faced across Indian Country, where polling places are often hours away and restrictive voter laws and ID requirements only add to the barriers.

It's been a century now since an act of Congress granted citizenship to Native Americans, but advocates say that right bestowed in 1924 still hasn't translated into equal access to the ballot. Inequities are especially pronounced in remote regions across the U.S., and some key Southwestern states with large Native American populations.

New Mexico is trying something new – a test run of sorts for many new and contested provisions that are part of the state's Native American Voting Rights Act that was passed last year. The measure promises tribal communities a greater voice in how and where they can vote, even opening the possibility that tribal offices can be designated as a street address for remote households that have none.

This should help at Acoma, where Pasqual said some residents still do not have standard addresses.

Native Americans in New Mexico – home to 22 federally recognized tribal communities and holdings of an Oklahoma-based tribe – were among the last to gain access to voting, decades after the U.S. extended birthright citizenship to the land's original inhabitants on June 2, 1924 through the Indian Citizenship Act.

That legislation took shape in the aftermath of World War I in which thousands of Native Americans had volunteered to serve overseas in the military.

A patchwork of statutes and treaties already offered about two-thirds of Native Americans citizenship, sometimes in exchange for land allotments that fractured reservations, gestures of assimilation, military service and even the renunciation of tribal traditions. The one-sentence Indian

Citizenship Act swept away those requirements in an attempt to grant citizenship to all Native Americans.

At the same time, Congress deferred to state governments qualifications on who qualified to vote. Legal access to the ballot was denied under existing state constitutional provisions and statutes until 1948 in Arizona and New Mexico – and until 1957 on reservations in Utah.

It was by design, said Maurice Crandall, an Arizona State University history professor and citizen of the Yavapai-Apache Nation of Camp Verde. Pointing to the largest Native populations in New Mexico and Arizona, he said: "They don't want a large group of Native people who can swing elections."

Fast forward to 2020, he said, and "many people credit the Native vote with deciding to bring Arizona into the (Joe) Biden camp."

Biden won Arizona by about 10,500 votes, as voter turnout surged on the Navajo and Hopi reservations.

At Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, voting has provided Native Americans with a path to power amid the political rise of pueblo member Deb Haaland. She became one of the first two Native American women in Congress in 2018 before taking the reins of the Interior Department to oversee U.S. obligations to 574 federally recognized tribes.

For the upcoming primary, Laguna is on the front lines of two Democratic contests with first-time female Native American candidates competing in districts that were redrawn in 2021 to increase Native influence. In the general election, eligible voters among 8,000 Laguna residents will cast ballots in a congressional swing district rematch between U.S. Rep. Gabe Vasquez and Republican Yvette Herrell, who lost in 2022 by 1,350 votes. Herrell seldom invokes her Cherokee heritage.

The state's new voting rights legislation for Native Americans provides new tools for tribal communities to request convenient on-reservation voting sites and secure ballot deposit boxes with consultation requirements for county clerks and an appeals process.

But there are still obstacles, said Laguna Pueblo administrator Ashley M. Sarracino, pointing to tensions with county election administrators over a decision to withdraw three Election Day voting sites at the pueblo this year, leaving three open.

In Arizona, the anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act stirs up frustration among Native American leaders, including Gov. Stephen Lewis of the Gila River Indian Community. He has denounced efforts by the Republican National Committee and state lawmakers to revive and extend voter ID requirements through the 2024 general election.

Two of Lewis' community members sued in 1928 after being turned away from the polls, only to have the Arizona Supreme Court rebuff their case. The community wouldn't realize the right to vote until 1948 – after World War II and the raising of an American flag at Iwo Jima that included Ira Hayes, who was part of the Gila River community.

Lewis during a recent online forum counted the years that passed between the time the U.S. Declaration of Independence was inked and the Indian Citizenship Act was signed. He said elected officials for years have "made laws for us, about us, but never with us."

Native Americans have held widely divergent views about

citizenship and voting, said Torey Dolan, a research fellow at the University of Wisconsin Law School and citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Some view U.S. citizenship as incompatible with being Indigenous people; others see it more like dual citizenship.

With approval of the citizenship act, many Native Americans feared the expansion of U.S. citizenship might undermine the special status of trust land that allows tribes to make their own decisions about tax-exempt land and shield it from speculators.

"It was really seen in many parts of Indian Country as being aimed at breaking down tribal cultures, particularly in the Southwest," said Geoffrey Blackwell, general counsel to the National Congress of American Indians that advocates for Native American rights and sovereignty.

For some, ensuring voting rights was worth the fight. In 1948, Isleta Pueblo member and World War II military veteran Miguel Trujillo challenged the status quo that barred Native Americans in New Mexico from voting by attempting to vote in Valencia County. He was rejected, sparking a landmark lawsuit that was supported by Washington-based federal Indian law pioneer Felix Cohen and the National Congress of American Indians.

A 1956 federal survey of Native voting in the Southwest found anemic participation, with no polling places set up at New Mexico pueblos. In Arizona, Jim Crow-style discrimination set in with widespread application of literacy tests to block Native-language speakers from voting until the practice was barred in 1970 under the federal Voting Rights Act.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 spurred a new movement within tribal communities to encourage participation, said Laura Harris, the Albuquerque-based director of Americans for Indian Opportunity and a citizen of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act that gave the Justice Department election oversight in states with a history of discrimination. Since then, several states have enacted new voting laws that some legal experts say make it unreasonably difficult for Native Americans to vote, including a flurry of restrictions from Republicans enacted in the wake of the 2020 election.

But in New Mexico, the Sandoval County clerk's office has expanded early voting services in recent years for tribal communities. Only one pueblo in the county declined the opportunity this year. Native language interpreters are posted at each of the sites, which are open to all county residents.

Evelyn Sandoval works with the county attorney's office as a liaison to Native Americans. She teaches families how to use newly available tools to register online and receive absentee ballots by mail.

"I'm trying to get them to be self-reliant," said Sandoval, a 54-year-old former oil and gas company worker who was raised Ojo Encino, a Navajo community with fewer than 300 residents. Her mother spoke only Navajo.

Associated Press writer Susan Montoya Bryan contributed to this story from Zia Pueblo, New Mexico. AP writer Graham Brewer contributed from Oklahoma City.

READ AT: <https://bit.ly/4cml8cO>



# Bulletin Board

## TV show filmed in Moab Teaches Kids the Navajo Language

Pete Sands is bringing Navajo culture and language to life with "Navajo Highways," a new kids' show featuring puppets and live actors.

On a TV set outside Star Hall, Moab's Pete Sands holds up a puppet with long, black hair, a cowboy hat and a red button-up shirt. The puppet, Uncle Al, is one of three that Sands voices in "Navajo Highways," the new kids' show he wrote and directed. The show features Sesame Street-esque puppets and live actors, who teach viewers the Navajo language and culture.

Sands, who grew up in Montezuma Creek, Utah on the Navajo Reservation, is a musician, actor and filmmaker – among other talents. He made a special appearance in the drama series "Yellowstone," which premiered in 2018. But Sands had always wanted to create a production of his own.

"I always felt like I could do it," Sands said. "I just needed time."

The idea of Navajo Highways started brewing in Sands' mind around 2019, when he met with the Sesame Street team in New York. Then, in 2020, when the pandemic hit, Sands started a COVID-19 relief program for the Navajo Nation. He worked to help deliver food and firewood, haul water and set up pop-up testing sites on the reservation.

"One thing I noticed being out in the reservation is the language disparity between the young kids and their elders," Sands said. "I would go to these places, and the kids would ask me, 'hey, can you speak Navajo? We're trying to get our car keys from our grandma, and we don't know how to talk to her. She doesn't understand English, and we can't speak Navajo.'"

The Navajo language has seen a dramatic decline over the past few decades. In 1980, 93 percent of Navajos spoke the language, according to the Navajo Times. By 2010, that had declined to just 51 percent. Much of this language and culture loss can be attributed to centuries of federal policies that forced assimilation on Navajo and



other Native peoples.

"The public schools punished people for speaking the language. There were federal policies like a relocation, where families were encouraged to leave the reservation and go to places like Los Angeles, Denver, Albuquerque, Phoenix," executive producer Daryl Ross Begay said. "So over time, those Navajo families didn't didn't speak the language to their descendants."

Sands was particularly inspired when he went into an elementary school classroom and watched a teacher attempt to get the attention of her unruly students.

"She was trying to tell her kids to clean up the classroom, and they weren't listening to her. So she went to her desk, and she pulled out a hand puppet, and she started talking with the hand puppet, and then the little kids listened to the puppet," he said. "In that moment, this light went off in my head. I'm like, 'wait a minute, maybe I can use puppets to introduce language.'"

Sands began performing live puppet shows at conferences, schools and around Moab to entertain and educate kids.

"People took notice of it," Sands said. Begay, who he had met on the "Yellowstone" set, encouraged him to make it into a TV show.

The show centers around the main puppet, Sadie, a city slicker who journeys to the Navajo Reservation to stay with her grandmother during her summer break. Over six 15 to 20-minute episodes, Sadie learns more about Navajo culture, language and traditions from her community in the fictitious town of Mitten Creek.

"All the stories come from personal experiences as a child," Sands says. "Every character is based on somebody I know."

The Navajo Highways crew shot all six episodes of the first season in Moab in just six days at the beginning of June. Shooting locations included Star Hall, Castle Valley and the KZMU office – where Sands hosts his weekly radio show.

"If you ever walk in there, it's like somebody built that place for a sitcom," Sands said. "I wanted to shoot there so bad. I created a DJ character."

The show features guest appearances from Navajo role models, including actor Raoul Trujillo, former UFC champion Nicco Montaño and Alana Yazzie, creator of the blog The Fancy Navajo. Even Helen M. Knight Elementary's Assistant Principal Libby Bailey had a guest star role.

Sands has big ideas for the show – he wants to introduce more characters, have the puppets visit other tribes and watch them grow over the years.

"I want the puppets to age. Sadie is 10 years old now. In 10 years, I want her to be 20, going to college. Or maybe she leaves Navajo Highways because she's going to college. There's a whole new group of puppets that come in," he said. "So I like that idea of people growing with the show, because a new generation of kids will watch it with new characters that they know."

But pretty soon – maybe after Season 2 – he wants to hand the show off to the next generation of filmmakers.

"That's the dream, to have it keep going and have future generations running it," he said. "I'm just laying the foundation."

Navajo Highways will air on Navajo Nation TV and be released on YouTube in the fall.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3RN9P4Z>



# Bulletin Board

## Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren Enforces Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Amidst Drought and Nearby Wildfires

By Steve Wilson  
Hoodline  
Published on June 26, 2024



In response to severe drought conditions and escalating fire hazards, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren has signed an

executive order enforcing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions across the Navajo Nation, effective immediately. Highlighting the urgency, the President stated, "These restrictions are needed as a preventive protective measure," according to a press release from the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President.

The move aims to shield lives, properties, and livestock as well as to preserve the integrity of cultural and ecological resources amid a stretch of high temperatures and low precipitation. "We're all feeling it, and our land is surrounded by early, raging forest fires in New Mexico and Arizona," Nygren said, noting the adjacency of other areas already grappling with wildfires. The health risks associated with wildfire smoke inhalation are a critical concern emphasized in the order for Navajo communities and residents.

With the observation of Independence Day looming just over a week away, the order notably prohibits the sale, possession, or use of fireworks and other pyrotechnics on Navajo lands. Outlining the specifics, the order bans open fires and the use of charcoal or coal outdoors, with narrowly tailored exceptions for certain developed areas and livestock branding operations utilizing gas or petroleum-fueled stoves.

Authorities from various divisions, including the Navajo Nation Divisions of Public Safety and Natural Resources, as well as the

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management, have been tasked with the enforcement of these restrictions, "to protect the public, natural resources and reduce the risks of wildfires," the order clarified. Supporting these measures, Acting Navajo Region BIA Regional Director Deborah Shirley concurred with the order.

Ceremonial fires, deeply rooted in Navajo traditions, will still be permitted. However, such activities must be registered with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) five days prior to the event. For burn registration and related inquiries, contact details have been made available by the NNEPA.

Any sighting of wildland fire should be reported immediately, with contact information for both the BIA Fire Dispatch and personnel listed in the press release. Additional questions and clarifications on the restrictions can be sought from the Navajo Forestry Department or the Division of Natural Resources at the provided phone numbers.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4bkpT5r>

By Billy Ludt | June 11, 2024  
Solarpowerworldonline  
News item from Origis Energy

Origis Energy and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association have completed construction and reached commercial operation on Escalante Solar, a 200-MW PV project built on the site of the former 253-MWAC, coal-fired Escalante Station near Grants, New Mexico, which was retired in 2020.

"Escalante Solar helps all our members get to 50% clean energy used in 2025, while meeting the requirements of New Mexico's Energy Transition Act five years ahead of schedule," said Duane Highley, CEO for Tri-State. "We thank Origis Energy for their work to successfully develop Escalante Solar, and we deeply appreciate their engagement with the local community."

Escalante Solar is now delivering enough renewable energy to power an estimated 63,000 homes, directly to Tri-State's members, including 11 electric cooperative members in New Mexico, under a power purchase agreement with Origis Energy. The project was announced in 2020 as part of Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan and is located in Tri-State member Continental Divide Electric Cooperative's service territory. In 2021, Origis acquired the development rights for the project from TurningPoint Energy, which originally developed it. It's the largest solar project in the Tri-State generation portfolio.

"The addition of a new tax base for McKinley County and our local school district is certainly beneficial, and we appreciate Tri-State and the project partners for bringing Escalante Solar to our region," said Robert E. Castillo, Continental Divide Electric Cooperative CEO and general manager.

The project will pay approximately \$7,100,000 in taxes to the county and \$2,400,000 in taxes to the school district over its lifetime.

Gridworks, headquartered in Albuquerque provided construction services for the project, employing an estimated 400 people



The 200-MW Escalante Solar project reached commercial operations and started producing power on June 1. Origis Energy

during that time. Origis Energy Services will provide long-term operations and maintenance services for the project, employing approximately four to six on-site jobs. Approximately 500,000 Boviet solar panels were used in the project. Array Technologies provided solar tracking systems and solutions.

"Every time a project is completed and begins commercial operation, that is cause to celebrate," said Guy Vanderhaegen, executive chairman of Origis Energy. "We are especially delighted to bring affordable, reliable, renewable electricity to the members of Tri-State, which helps meet Tri-State's decarbonization goals."



## PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

| POSITION TITLE                                | LOCATION          | PAY RATE    | CLOSING DATE |
|---|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Administrative Service Centers</b>         |                   |             |              |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Wide Ruins, AZ    | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Oak Springs, AZ   | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Crystal, NM       | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Coyote Canyon, NM | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Community Services Coordinator (S)            | Tsayatoh, NM      | \$42,407.28 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Sawmill, AZ       | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Community Services Coordinator (S)            | Rock Point, AZ    | \$42,407.28 | 7/3/2024     |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Round Rock, AZ    | \$30,046.32 | 7/11/2024    |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Alamo, NM         | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Standing Rock, NM | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Tohajilee, NM     | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Torreón, NM       | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Community Services Coordinator (S)            | Nageezi, NM       | \$42,407.28 | 7/1/2024     |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Teecnospos, AZ    | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Red Valley, AZ    | \$30,046.32 | 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)           | Cameron, AZ       | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)           | Coppermine, AZ    | \$30,046.32 | OUF          |
| <b>Capital Projects Management Department</b> |                   |             |              |
| Registered Architect                          | Window Rock, AZ   | \$75,585.60 | OUF          |

(OUF) Open Until Filled  
 (S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check) Closing Dates may change

For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at  
<http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/jobs.html>

### Comic of the Month



### Quote of the Month





## Broadband Access in Tribal Areas Lags Rest of the Nation

### American Indian and Alaska Natives in Tribal Areas Have Among Lowest Rates of High-Speed Internet Access

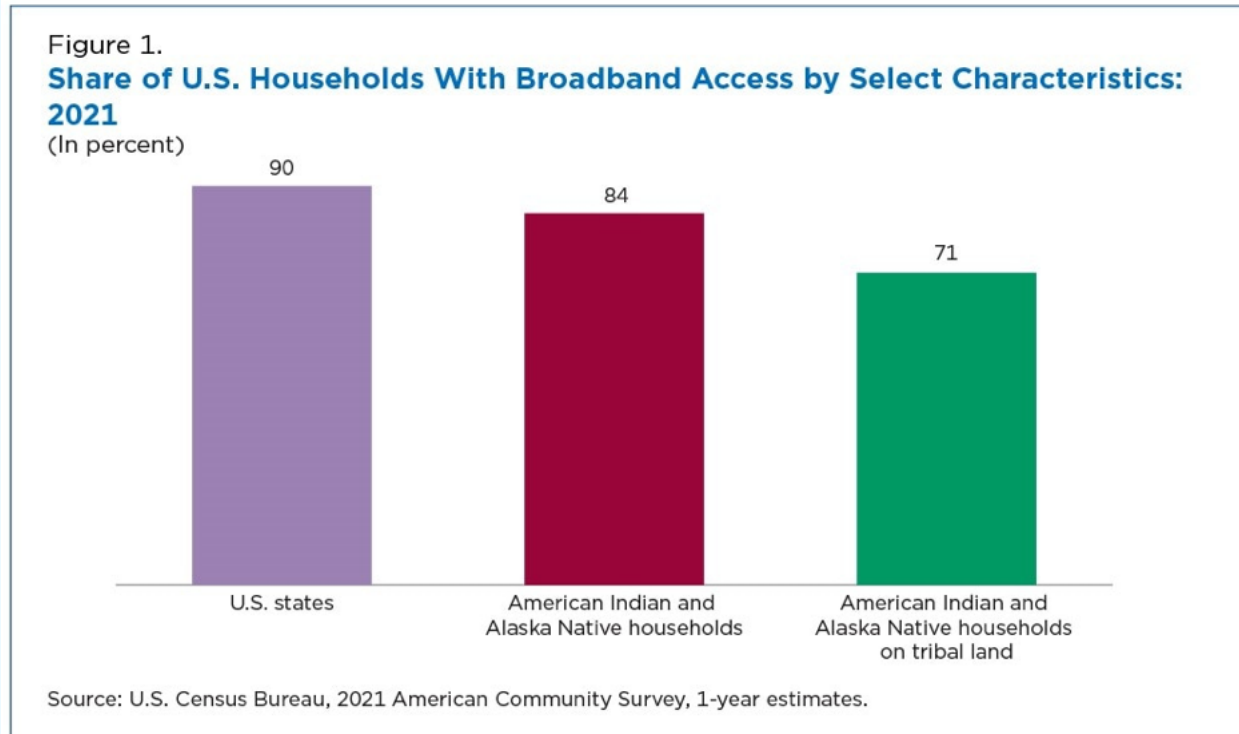
June 18, 2024

Written by: Daniela Mejía

American Indian and Alaska Natives living in tribal areas have among the nation's lowest rates of high-speed internet access in the United States.

The [Computer and Internet Use in the United States: 2021 report](#) released today highlights key estimates of computer ownership and broadband access across the country, including, for the first time, in tribal areas (Figure 1).

In this article, a tribal household is defined as any household residing in an [American Indian and Alaska Native Area](#).



Compared to the national average of 90% in 2021, 84% of American Indian and Alaska Native households and 71% of American Indian and Alaska Native households on tribal land had broadband access, according to the American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates.

The “[digital divide](#)” is commonly defined as the gap between households with high-speed (broadband) internet access and those without. Research indicates those most affected by this divide or least likely to have internet access are people with disabilities, those 65 years and over, and those living in rural areas, among others.

And some of those factors may play a role in tribal areas' internet access. For example, 45% of tribal households were in rural areas compared to 19% of nontribal households, and rural tribal households had a lower share (80%) of broadband subscriptions than urban tribal households (88%).

In comparison, the urban-rural connectivity gap was smaller between rural (87%) and urban (91%) households in nontribal areas.

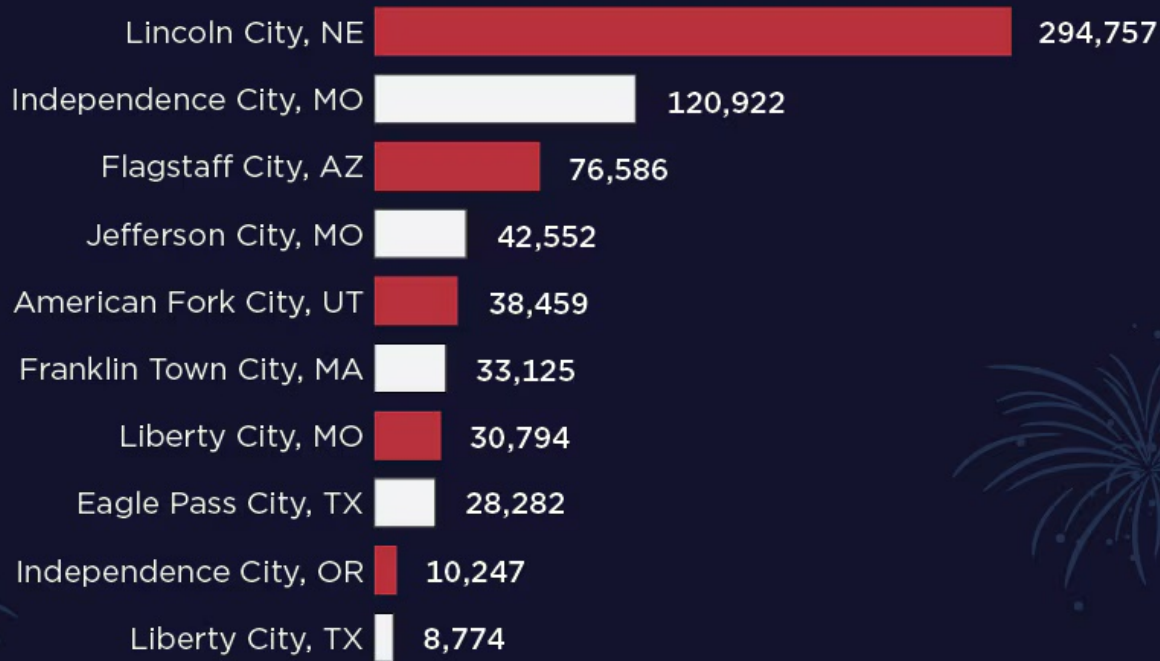
READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2024/06/broadband-access-tribal-areas.html>



CELEBRATING

# July 4<sup>th</sup>

## Selected Patriotic-Sounding Places With Populations Over 2,500 as of July 1, 2023





### Asian Indian Was The Largest Asian Alone Population Group in 2020

#### **Chinese, Except Taiwanese, Was The Largest Asian Alone or in Any Combination Group; Nepalese Population Grew Fastest**

The Asian Indian alone population became the nation's largest Asian alone population group in 2020, growing by over 50% to 4,397,737 between 2010 and 2020.

The nation's most populous Asian alone or in any combination group in 2020 was the Chinese, except Taiwanese population with 5.2 million, an increase of 37.2% since 2010.

2020 Census demographic characteristics on 41 detailed Asian groups released today show that the Nepalese population increased over 250% and was the fastest growing Asian alone and Asian alone or in any combination group among those with populations of 50,000 or more in 2010 (Table 1).

The Nepalese alone population increased 295.5% from 51,907 in 2010 to 205,297 in 2020. The Nepalese alone or in any combination population grew from 59,490 to 219,503, a 269.0% increase over the decade.

[Click here to continue.](#)

### Computer and Internet Use in the United States: 2021

Most U.S. households had at least one type of computer (95%) and had a broadband internet subscription (90%) in 2021, an increase from 2018 (92% and 85%, respectively). This is according to a new report released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The report, [Computer and Internet Use in the United States: 2021](#), examines trends in computer use and internet access at the national, state and county levels based on statistics from the Census Bureau's [American Community Survey](#) (ACS).

Other report highlights:

- Smartphones were the most common computing device in U.S. households (90%), followed by desktop or laptop computers (81%) and tablets (64%) in 2021.
- Urban households (96%) were more likely than rural ones (93%) to own computers; they were also more likely to have a broadband internet subscription (91% vs. 87%, respectively).
- Only 66 counties had low rates (below 60%) of broadband subscription in 2017-2021, compared to 291 in 2014-2018.
- "Smartphone-only" households (which accessed the internet only through mobile broadband) were more likely to make \$25,000 or less annually, be headed by someone 65 years and over or to have a Black or Hispanic householder.
- Compared to the 90% national average, 84% of households in tribal areas had broadband internet.

[Click here to continue.](#)

June 26, 2024

Volume 24 Issue 10

### 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

### Win Grants with LODES Data: Success Stories and Shortcuts from Texas' Largest Community College System

**Wednesday, July 10**

**Time: 1:30-2:45 PM EST**

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership in collaboration with the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) and the Labor Market Information (LMI) Institute, welcomes Camille Gilchrist, as she presents, "Win Grants with LODES Data: Success Stories and Shortcuts from Texas' Largest Community College System." Winning grants is a foundational component of regional economic development initiatives, but it can be difficult to quickly craft compelling, data-driven narratives that respond to major funding opportunities. In this presentation, the Dallas College Labor Market Intelligence Center (LMIC) will present case studies that showcase how to utilize the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) data to support a variety of economic development activities, such as campus planning, relationship building with external partners, and grant development from project design to post-award implementation.





Upcoming

**Profile of Older Adults by Poverty Status: 2021**

The U.S. Census Bureau will release a new report which offers a profile of adults aged 65 and over by poverty status. Using data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), this report examines the sociodemographic characteristics, living arrangements, program participation, and net worth of older adults by poverty status. (Scheduled for release in June.)

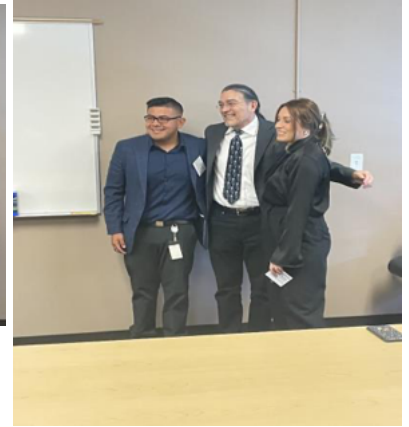
**Community Resilience Estimates: Summer Rankings**

The U.S. Census Bureau will release new tables for its Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) Summer Rankings data product. These tables will highlight the most socially vulnerable counties and neighborhoods in the country to hurricanes, wildfires, and strong winds. (Scheduled for release July 9.)

**Survey of Income and Program Participation 2023 Data Available**

The U.S. Census Bureau will release data from the 2023 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The SIPP is a longitudinal survey that provides comprehensive information about income and assistance program participation of individuals and households in the United States. The survey collects data and measures change in characteristics like economic well-being, family dynamics, education, assets, health insurance, child care and food security. (Scheduled for release July 11.)

**Director Santos Visits Idaho SDC**



Director Santos visited Idaho and had engagements in Boise and Twin Falls. A community conversation led by Idaho Labor Economist and SDC lead Jan Roeser was attended by 2020 Census partners and organizations from the Boise community.

**Excise Sales Tax Collections: 1st Quarter 2024**

The U.S. Census Bureau released experimental data and an updated data visualization featuring quarterly tax collections at the state level for cannabis sales. Data for cannabis sales taxes were reported in the Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue and were first released for the second quarter of 2023. The data visualization provides cannabis revenue as a percent of the states total tax revenue where available and percent change from the prior quarter. More information about this data can be found [online](#).

**Bracing for an Active 2024 Hurricane Season**

**Census Bureau Data Can Help With Emergency Management Response and Recovery**

The 2024 hurricane season officially began June 1 and is predicted to have [an above-normal amount of hurricane activity](#).

In preparation for several potential emergency events, we are highlighting U.S. Census Bureau tools that combine demographic and economic data to help prepare, respond and recover from natural disasters and other catastrophic events.

**Juneteenth (1865): June 19, 2024**

From the National Archives: [The Emancipation Proclamation](#)

“President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared ‘that all persons held as slaves’ within the rebellious states ‘are, and henceforward shall be free.’

“Despite this expansive wording, the Emancipation Proclamation was limited in many ways. It applied only to states that had seceded from the United States, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal border states. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy (the Southern secessionist states) that had already come under Northern control. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union (United States) military victory. [Click here to continue.](#)







# 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.NNDCCD.ORG**



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

## 2024 Schedule Now!

### Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings

#### TOPICS

- Review the *Title 26 LGA - Zoning & Community Based Land Use Plans*
- Provide overview of Land-Use Planning for Navajo Chapters
- Review the CLUPC certification process
- Strategic Planning assistance
- Community assessment collection tools & methods
- Introduction of land use planning topics
- Technical Assistance

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 **Pet Help**

 **Spay/Neuter FAQ's**  
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Many Farms  
**(928) 781-4380**

Shiprock  
**(505) 368-1235**

Tuba City  
**(928) 283-3089**



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
**CENTRAL DISPATCH**  
**928-871-6491/7041**

- Forestry Issues
- Wildlife Poaching
- Livestock Trespassing
- Dogs Running-at-Large
- Livestock Inspection



**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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