

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníílgíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Ya'iishjááshtsoh

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Nít bée hoziníshii...

Did You Know...

The Navajos in 1705: Roque Madrid's Campaign Journal

This journal gives a unique look into the old Navajo country. Recently rediscovered, it is both the earliest and only eyewitness account of the traditional Navajo homeland in the eighteenth century. It reveals new information on Hispanic New Mexico and relations with the Indians. For the first twenty days in August 1705, Roque Madrid led about 100 Spanish soldiers and citizens together with some 300 Pueblo Indian allies on a 312-mile march to torch Navajo corn fields and homes in northwest New Mexico. Three times they fought hand-to-hand to retaliate for Navajo raids in which Spanish settlers were robbed and killed.

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

Events:

July: Ya'iishjááshtsoh - Planting of Late Crops

July 4: Independence Day

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

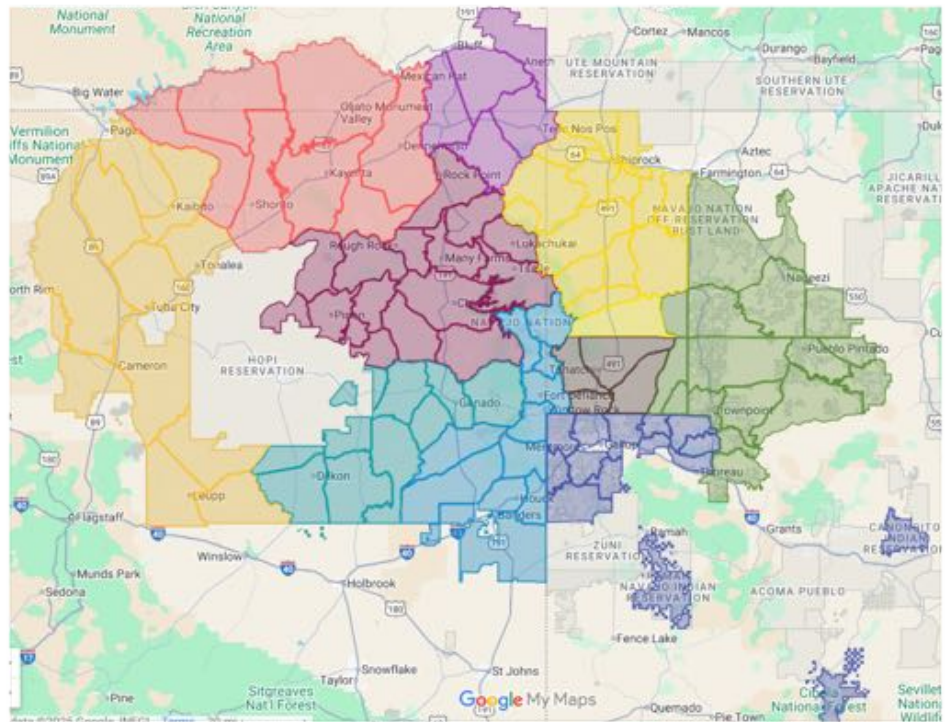
August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous People

August 14: Navajo Code Talker Day

August 21: Senior Citizens Day

August 26: Women's Equality Day

Navajo Chapters Focus Edition



A Focus on Chapter Activities

In this special issue of Community Update, we are proud to highlight the work and activities submitted by Navajo Nation Chapters. This edition is dedicated entirely to showcasing local efforts, community events, and Chapter-driven projects that reflect the hard work and dedication of Chapter officials and staff.

Each submission offers a glimpse into the progress being made at the local level—whether through infrastructure improvements, public services, cultural programs, or community engagement initiatives. These highlights demonstrate the strength and resilience of our communities and their commitment to serving the Navajo people.

Enjoy This Chapter Focused Edition

We welcome community members, leaders, and staff to dive into and enjoy this showcase of Chapter successes! This issue is a celebration of the positive work happening across the Navajo Nation at the local level. We thank each Chapter that submitted updates for this edition. Your contributions help keep our communities informed, connected, and inspired.

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the month of July, the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) remained committed to supporting Navajo Nation chapters by providing technical assistance in budgeting, implementing the Five Management Systems (FMS), and delivering capacity-building trainings, among other essential services.

Our eight local offices are currently prioritizing the disbursement of FY25 Navajo Nation funding allocations. This effort is crucial to ensure each of the 110 chapters can continue operating local programs that benefit their communities—ranging from employment opportunities and housing assistance to scholarships and more.

In areas where chapter staffing is limited, ASC teams have stepped in to provide operational support, ensuring chapters remain functional and able to deliver vital services to their communities without disruption.

This time of year also marks the peak of summer youth employment programs across the Nation. Many chapters are engaging Navajo youth in meaningful job experiences within their local tribal governments, helping them develop valuable workplace skills and build strong resumes for the future.

July 2, 2025

Shiprock ASC – Red Valley Chapter
Participated in the local CLUPC Meeting.
Supported planning and land use coordination.

July 7, 2025

Crownpoint ASC – Tse Bonito (NDOT)
Attended RDC meeting with Pueblo Pintado Chapter.
Sanction topic was included on the formal agenda.

July 10, 2025

Shiprock ASC – Shiprock Chapter, CCSD
Joined a planning meeting hosted at the chapter.
Engaged in updates related to community development.

July 11, 2025

Kayenta ASC – Monument Valley Welcome Center
Addressed water shortage concerns in Halchita.
Coordinated with partners on short- and long-term solutions.

July 14, 2025

Kayenta ASC – Tolikan Chapter
Held WIND and budgeting support session.
Assisted with program planning and allocations.

July 20, 2025

Dilkon ASC – Dilkon Administration, Conference Room
Attended regular chapter meeting at 1:00 PM DST.
Provided general ASC updates and technical support.

July 25, 2025

Kayenta ASC – Tolikan Chapter
Provided direct MIP assistance to chapter staff.
Helped resolve financial tracking and reporting issues.

July 28, 2025

Chinle ASC – Rio Rancho, NM
Participated in MIP Fixed Asset Accounting training.
Presented by Bill and Cathy Jimenez for ASC teams.

EASTERN NAVAJO FAIR

Crownpoint ASC Represents Department at Eastern Navajo Nation Fair

The Crownpoint ASC Local Office proudly represented the Administrative Services Centers Department at the 2025 Eastern Navajo Nation Fair, held in Crownpoint, NM from July 24–27. Staff from the office hosted a departmental resource booth during Elders Day on July 24, where they welcomed community members and shared valuable information about the department's services.

The booth featured informational brochures and materials highlighting the role of the Administrative Services Centers in supporting chapters across the Navajo Nation. The event provided a meaningful opportunity to engage with elders, answer questions, and promote awareness of available chapter resources.

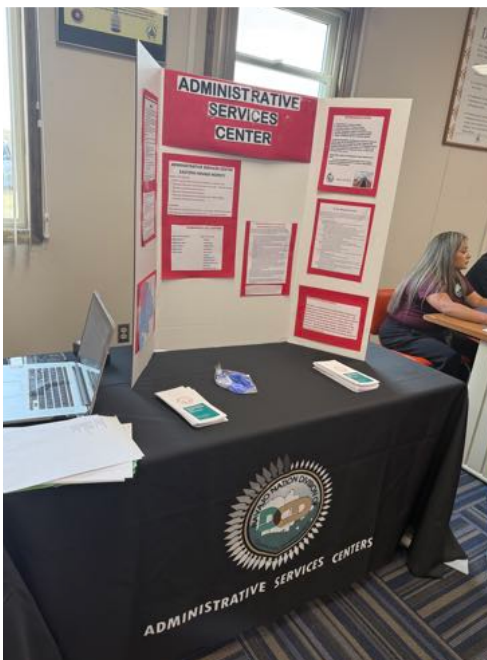


CROWNPOINT ASC

Crownpoint ASC Supports Community Wellness at “Just Move It” Event

On July 14, 2025, the Crownpoint ASC Local Office participated in the “Just Move It” wellness event hosted at the Diné College Crownpoint Center in collaboration with Crownpoint Indian Health Service (IHS). The non-competitive walk/run drew 337 participants and promoted healthy living for all ages. The Crownpoint ASC team hosted a resource booth, sharing information about department services and connecting with community members.

The event was a great success, featuring giveaways, fresh fruit, and onsite wellness resources. By taking part, Crownpoint ASC helped reinforce the importance of wellness, education, and community engagement—key values shared across the Administrative Services Centers and the Navajo Nation.



GALLUP ASC

Gallup ASC Supports Chapters with Five Management Systems Review

Throughout the month of July, the Gallup Administrative Service Center (ASC) provided valuable support to its chapters by reviewing the Five Management Systems (FMS) alongside chapter officials and staff. Led by Senior Programs & Projects Specialist Guarena Adeky, the Gallup ASC team facilitated meetings focused on helping chapters better understand the FMS manual and how to effectively implement each system in alignment with Navajo Nation laws and policies.

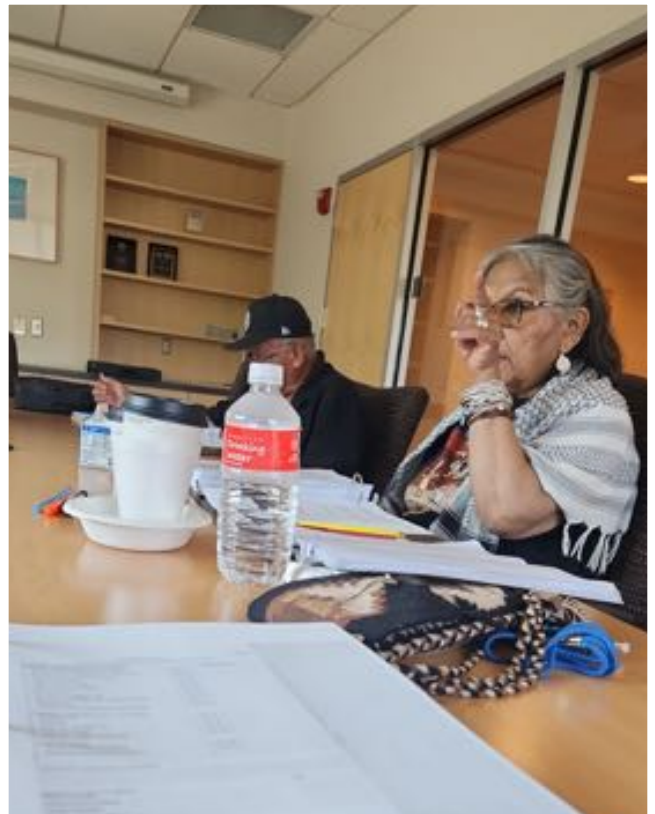
The sessions provided chapters with technical guidance and clarification on core operational responsibilities, reinforcing good governance and accountability practices. With these ongoing efforts, the Gallup ASC continues to strengthen chapter capacity and ensure that foundational systems are applied consistently and effectively across the region.



JULY 1 & 2 GALLUP ASC PROVIDED AN FMS REVIEW TO THE NAVAJO NATION SATELITE CHAPTERS



JULY 9 & 10 GALLUP ASC HOSTED AN FMS WORKSESSION DELEGATE YAZZIE'S CHAPTERS



JULY 16 & 18 GALLUP ASC PROVIDED AN FMS REVIEW TO BAAHAALI CHAPTER

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating Community Leadership, Youth Involvement, and Cultural Vitality

This month's newsletter proudly showcases the vibrant work being carried out across the Navajo Nation by our chapters. From hosting legislative leadership to launching youth-led community improvement projects, each chapter continues to embody the strength, innovation, and commitment that define our Diné communities.

In July, several chapters focused their energy on youth empowerment through the Summer Youth Employment Program, with students taking part in everything from food distributions to creating a disc golf course. Chapters like Low Mountain and Tse Daa K'aaan demonstrated how SYEP can foster not only job skills but community pride and wellness.

Meanwhile, chapters like Pinedale took the lead in intergovernmental collaboration by hosting the State of New Mexico Interim Indian Affairs Committee, sharing vital updates and plans for the future. Others, like Wide Ruins, advanced holistic wellness and cultural revitalization through traditional moccasin and ribbon skirt workshops and wellness training made possible through the Unhealthy Food Tax Fund.

We also celebrate new leadership, with Cove Chapter welcoming a new Chapter Manager, and recognize chapters like Jeddito and Low Mountain for their continued commitment to serving families through school readiness events and infrastructure planning.

Each chapter update in this edition reflects the shared values of service, resilience, and community-centered growth. As we move forward into the second half of 2025, may the stories in this newsletter continue to inspire collaboration, engagement, and cultural pride across our Nation.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: LOW MOUNTAIN CHAPTER



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: LOW MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER

Student Youth Employment Program 2025

There were two sessions were held this summer, Session 1 was held in June. Session 2 was held in July. Overall, there were two groups of 10 high school students and two college students who participated in this summer's youth employment program at the Mexican Water Chapter. This year's supervisor, Elvina Begay, led an outstanding program and provide a Cajun Boil at the end of the program. We are very appreciative of the work she provided with her extensive background in the healthcare field. While many presentations were made to the students all received their Food Handlers Permit and CPR Training.

Story submitted by:
Lucinda Tomchee
Chapter Manager



Mexican Water Chapter Summer Youth
Cajun Seafood Boil



Mexican Water Chapter
UNHS Beading Class



Mexican Water Chapter
Summer Youth with
Shiprock Behavioral Health



Mexican Water Chapter
Summer Youth Cajun Seafood Boil

MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER CONT.

Just Move It 2025

This year's JMI at Mexican Water Chapter highlighted a tropical theme. All participants enjoyed their day along with a health fair earlier in the day prior to the event. We appreciate the Four Corners Behavioral Health Program/HPDP for assisting in making information available and participating. We are greatly appreciative of the Summer Youth Program for assisting in the preparations and donating their time with the JMI events that day.

Story submitted by:
Lucinda Tomchee
Chapter Manager



Mexican Water Chapter
JMI Fruit Table



Mexican Water Chapter
Front Desk



Mexican Water Chapter
JMI Sign



COVE CHAPTER

Cove Chapter welcomed a new Chapter Manager, Sonya Young-Panigeo, this July! On July 17, 2025, the chapter also held a Produce and St. Mary's Food Distribution Drive, with the support of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) students, Chapter Administration, and Team Cove. The event was a great success, providing needed resources to the community while giving youth a meaningful way to serve.



JEDITO CHAPTER

Back 2 School Fun

Jeddito Chapter, in collaboration with Eulah's Closet, hosted a Back 2 School event on July 26, 2025. The event featured a bike raffle that delighted four lucky children—two boys and two girls—who each won a brand-new bicycle. Three SYEP students also assisted with the event, helping to prepare the community's youth for a successful school year.



PINEDALE CHAPTER

Hosts Legislative Committee

On July 17–18, 2025, the Pinedale Chapter proudly hosted the State of New Mexico Legislative Interim Indian Affairs Committee at the Chapter Meeting Hall. On the first day, a delicious lunch was served, and a formal presentation was delivered by Community Services Coordinator Titus J. Nez, Secretary/Treasurer Clara J. Daye, and Miss Pinedale Community Megan Yazzie. They shared updates, reports, and chapter goals during a dedicated 30-minute session. The meeting also included participation from neighboring chapters who presented their own updates to the committee. The full session can be viewed on the State Legislative website.



LOW MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

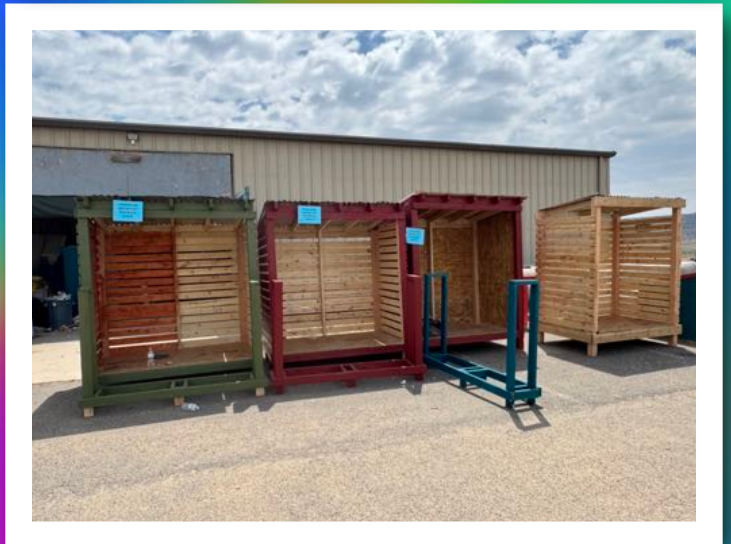
Low Mountain Chapter Concludes FY 2025 Summer Youth Employment Program

The Low Mountain Chapter is proud to announce the successful conclusion of the FY 2025 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP), officially ending on August 1, 2025. This summer, over 25 youth from our community—ranging from the Ahasteens to the Zahs—took part in this enriching opportunity, bringing with them energy, curiosity, and a strong sense of purpose.

Every morning, participants made their way to work—some walking alongside their loyal rez dogs—showing up with dedication, despite the early hours and summer heat. Throughout the program, youth were exposed to real-world skills such as sewing, welding, clerical work, maintenance, and community support. Some quickly found their talent in sewing and welding, picking up the skill with remarkable ease and pride.

More than just work, SYETP became a space for bonding and self-discovery. Youth reconnected with peers, discovered family ties among one another, and built lasting relationships. The chapter offices and meeting rooms came alive with laughter, conversations, and the sound of young footsteps echoing through the halls.

In addition to hands-on job experience, participants also attended several presentations provided by local Indian Health Service (IHS) and healthcare programs, covering important topics such as Teen Dating Violence, Mental Health Awareness, Opioid and Alcohol Dangers, and more. These presentations helped inform and empower our youth with tools for personal safety and well-being. Some participants even took the extra step and earned CPR certification, a valuable life-saving skill that will serve them in both their personal and professional lives.



LOW MOUNTAIN CHAPTER CONT.

Even after their official work cycles ended, a number of participants continued to show up—volunteering their time and efforts, wanting to give back more. With the help of both SYETP participants and those placed through the Navajo Department of Workforce Development, the Chapter proudly completed its first ARPA-funded community project, marking a significant achievement for all involved.

The Chapter also ensured that all youth workers had access to cold drinking water throughout the hot summer days. While the Chapter purchased water for daily use, we are deeply thankful to the community members who generously donated additional cases of water to help keep the youth safe and hydrated. This level of care and support made a lasting impression and exemplified our community's strength and unity.

Though the SYETP is coming to a close, and we will dearly miss the daily presence of our youth—their laughter, chatter, and even their occasional loud footsteps—we will soon settle back into the quiet rhythm of the office. The hum of the halls will return to stillness, but their impact will remain.

We wish all our participants a healthy, safe, and productive continuation of their educational journeys. The Low Mountain Chapter is proud of each and every one of them. We are thankful for all their hard work and for being part of something meaningful this summer. We look forward to seeing our youth again during the FY 2026 Summer Youth Program.

In continuing our commitment to education and growth, the Low Mountain Chapter is now offering monthly trainings for community members and neighboring chapter residents. Training topics include Fire Safety, First Aid & CPR, and Food Handlers Certification. These sessions are aimed at strengthening community readiness, increasing job qualifications, and promoting well-being. Updates and schedules for upcoming trainings will be posted on the Chapter's official Facebook page and website: lowmountain.navajochapters.org.





TSE DÁÁ K'ÁÁN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 1288, SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO 87420

T: (505) 368-1599 • F: (505) 368-1598 • E: tsedaakaan@navajochapters.org



Tse Daa Kaan Disc Golf Course

Tse Daa Kaan Chapter

P.O. Box 1288

Shiprock, NM 8742

Phone: (505) 368-1599

Fax: (505) 368-1598

The 2025 Summer Youth Employment Program at Tse Daa Kaan Chapter has successfully culminated in the creation of a community disc golf course, blending education, physical activity, and community service. Thank you to the 10 SYEP Students for their hardwork!!



Designing and Building the Course

Youth participants engaged in the comprehensive process of designing and constructing the disc golf course. They learned to use hand tools for measuring, cutting, drafting, and assembling tee boxes. The construction incorporated both concrete bases and wooden frames topped with artificial turf, providing durable and safe tee pads for players. This hands-on experience not only taught practical skills but also instilled a sense of accomplishment and ownership among the students.



Mapping and Technology Integration

Emphasizing the importance of technology, the students utilized GPS apps to map out the course coordinates accurately. They created detailed maps of the disc golf course, enhancing location for players and integrating modern technological skills into the project. Proper application of technology promoted the student's interests and enjoyment of the daily work.



Learning the Game

Beyond construction, participants immersed themselves in learning the rules and etiquette of disc golf. They studied the different types of discs and their flight patterns, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the game. This knowledge ensures that they can both enjoy the sport and educate others in the community.



Promoting Health and Wellness

TSE DÁÁ K'ÁÁN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

Robert Lapahie, Jr., **President** • Jerald Tsosie- **Vice President** • Matthew Tso, **Secretary/Treasurer**
Rickie Nez, **Council Delegate** • Lavone Garnenez, **Farm Board** • Larry Johnson, **Grazing Representative**
Roman McCabe, **Chapter Manager**

The disc golf course serves as a valuable resource for community health and wellness. Disc golf offers numerous benefits, including cardiovascular fitness, strength and flexibility, mental well-being, and stress reduction. By providing free access to the course and offering disc rentals during open hours, Tse Daa Kaan Chapter encourages community members to engage in this beneficial activity. Disc golf teaches patience and builds focus tolerance. Communication and interaction are part of the game of golf. One round of 9 baskets is around half a mile. Shoot for the hot score or for the ACE. Golf allows the mind to develop repetitions of focus for every throw or putt. This creates goal setting and motivation for anyone who plays. Disc Golf= Good Medicine.

Community Impact

This initiative has transformed an idea into a tangible asset for the community. The course is open to everyone and free to play, fostering inclusivity and promoting an active lifestyle. The project exemplifies how youth engagement can lead to meaningful community development. There is no set way to throw a disc to play the game of disc golf. It's purely you, the course, and creativity. Disc golf is a learning instrument that can be utilized by any program or groups for physical activity, educational lessons, or a new park activity for communities.

Play. Grow. Stay Healthy. Have Fun. Disc Golf!

For more information about the project and to explore the course, please stop by the Tse Daa Kaan Chapter House.

Sincerely,
Roman McCabe, Chapter Manager
Tse Daa Kaan Chapter


TSE DAA KAAAN DISC GOLF COURSE



WIDE RUINS CHAPTER

• Post Office Box 208 • Chambers, Arizona 86502 •
• Phone: (928)652-3223 • WideRuins@NavajoChapters.org •
President: Vacant Vice President: Vacant Secretary/Treasurer: Tauve Begaye
Council Delegate: Arbin Mitchell Grazing Officer: Shawnevan Dale
Community Service Coordinator: Michael Halliwell

TO: Navajo Nation- Division of Community Development

FROM: 
Michael A. Halliwell, Community Service Coordinator
Wide Ruins Chapter House

DATE: July 31, 2025

SUBJECT: Wide Ruins Chapter...Promoting Wellness through Culture and Community

I wanted to take a moment to share with you and everyone at DCD the incredible progress we've made here at Wide Ruins Chapter through the thoughtful use of our Unhealthy Food Tax Fund. Over the past several months, we've hosted a variety of workshops aimed at improving community wellness, cultural revitalization, and hands-on learning.

Today marks the fourth and final day of our Moccasin Making Workshop, as well as Day Two of our Ribbon Skirt Making Workshop, and the energy here is absolutely inspiring. With KTNN playing in the background, you can hear laughter and stories exchanged, see the steady rhythm of sewing, and smell the fresh leather as community members come together to create beautiful, traditional Diné items.

These workshops are a testament to how health and culture go hand in hand. Through our Unhealthy Food Tax Fund, we are proud to support initiatives that not only promote physical wellness but also nurture cultural identity, emotional strength, and social connection.

At Wide Ruins Chapter, we follow a biopsychosocial model of health, which honors the holistic well-being of our people: mind, body, spirit, and community. We believe that true wellness is woven into every aspect of our lives: in the way we gather, share, create, and uplift one another.

In addition to our cultural workshops, we are also moving forward on other important health and education initiatives, including:

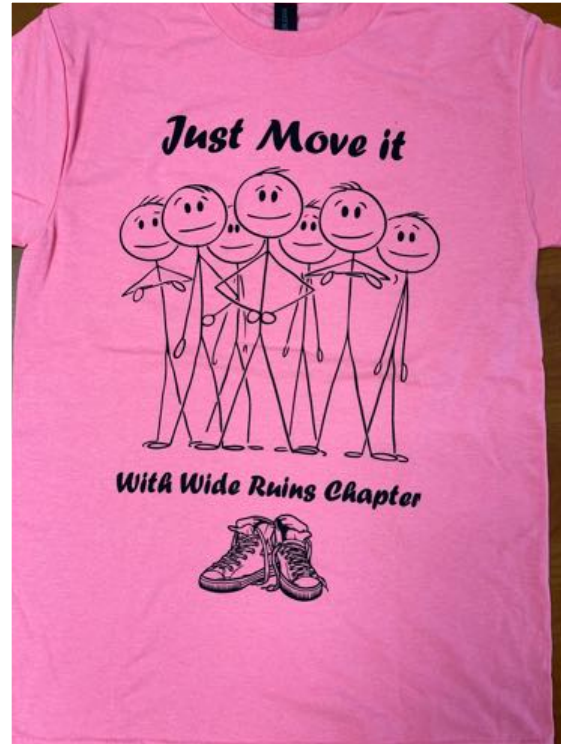
- Purchasing a greenhouse to support a new community garden, encouraging healthy food access and traditional farming.
- Acquiring Starlink internet and computers to build out our Community Computer Lab, expanding digital access and learning opportunities.
- Getting our community members certified in First Aid, CPR, First Safety, and AED devices.
- Training on what opioid overdose is and how the use of naloxone may assist in saving lives, and if needed, offering doses of naloxone with no questions asked for those in need. This service is brought to our community by a partnership between the Puerco Valley Fire Department and the Apache County Health Department.

Much of this progress is thanks to the dedication of our PEP Healthy Diné Office Assistant, who plays a vital role in coordinating and supporting these community-led efforts. As my chapter's CSC, I have a dream for my community of Wide Ruins, and part of that dream is coming to a reality because of the great team we have at the chapter house.

There is so much happening at Wide Ruins Chapter; we could truly talk about it for hours. I look forward to a time when we can share more in-depth updates and invite DCD and our other tribal leaders to see the impact firsthand.

...open dialogue, community service, transparency of actions, advocacy, and civil service; Wide Ruins Chapter Administration's new core values. Let's each be part of the change Our Diné Community needs.

WIDE RUINS CHAPTER



BODAWAY/GAP JULY HIGHLIGHTS

July 31st, 2025



Session 2 Youth Workers on the last day.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

This June and July we had two work sessions of the Youth Employment Program (YEP). We had a total of 21 workers. The students were very helpful in maintaining the chapter house buildings and compound. They were eager and ready to work.

While they were here, we opened up the wood distribution to all in the community. The only requirement was that they have to be a registered voter with the chapter house. With the help of the youth workers, we have been able to give out **74 truck loads**; to date. The community has been thankful, this helps cut down costs on getting firewood. We are encouraging our members to start getting their wood pile ready early before winter conditions in the forest start.

We have been working with *Wood For Life* for about two years now and they have been making a difference in not only our community but in the entire Western Agency of Navajo. They are making chizh more accessible for the Navajo people.



Received two more large loads of firewood. Still have two piles left as of July 30.

The students were also able to expand their coffee shop menu. They added tea refreshers and created a more visual menu for customers. Students were required to get a Food Service Certificate to participate.



New pictures of merchandise and tea refreshers.



Students and Sarang Church Group

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The students were involved in the three day Korean Cultural Exchange from July 7th–9th, held at the chapter house. The group is from Anaheim, California and this was their third of their annual year visit. They do several activities and share their cuisine with us while they are here in Bodaway.

We were honored to welcome our Korean partners, who generously provided a variety of wellness services to Bodaway Gap community members—free of charge. Offerings included facials, massages, acupuncture, haircuts, and even professional photos, creating a space of healing and connection. Several of our youth employees participated as interns, gaining hands-on experience and earning certificates of completion for their contributions. It was truly a remarkable week of community engagement, cultural exchange, and collective care.



Bodaway/Gap Services areas from Tuba City Jct to Navajo Bridge in Marble Canyon

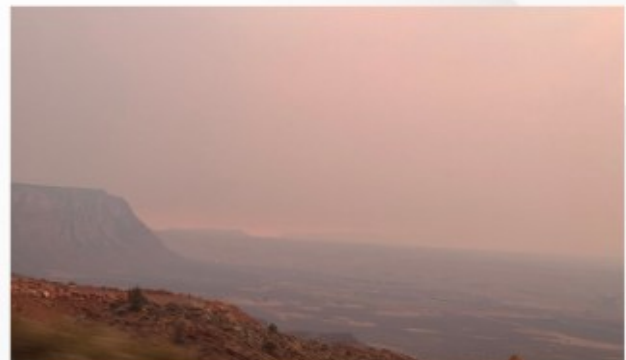
DRAGON BRAVO & WHITE SAGE FIRE NEAR GRAND CANYON NORTH RIM

The month of July began smoothly—until two wildfires ignited on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, disrupting conditions across the region. The Bodaway/Gap Chapter's western boundary lies along the Eastern Rim, placing several of our communities directly in the path of heavy smoke and environmental impact. The first incident, the Dragon Bravo Fire, began on July 4, followed by the White Sage Fire on July 9. As of July 31, 2025, both fires remain active, continuing to affect air quality and daily life for many residents.

We soon learned that the Lodge on the North Rim and the water treatment facility were burning down. There was fear that the smoke contained hazardous chlorine fumes. Evacuations were put in place to anyone in the area.

Due to prevailing winds, several Bodaway communities—particularly Navajo Springs and Bitter Springs—have been heavily impacted by wildfire smoke. In response, Chapter Officials activated the Bodaway/Gap Chapter House as a 24-hour emergency shelter, offering relief for one full week to those needing a safe space away from hazardous air conditions. While the 24-hour shelter period has ended, the Chapter House continues to serve as a designated clean air space during normal operating hours, providing a safer environment for community members who may need to shelter in place.

We remain committed to supporting our residents through ongoing wildfire impacts.



July 23, 2025, smoke in the evening.
View from the Cut, Highway 89.

Smoke on July 23, 2025



Smoke from the Dragon Bravo Fire going towards Bitter Springs & Navajo Springs. July 28, 2025. At 9% containment



WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH AN EMERGENCY WITH LOCAL SUPPORT

The smoke from both fires caused the staff of Bodaway to go into emergency mode. Luckily, we have great community partners that were willing to donate to the shelter and help community members in need.

Chapter Officials and administrative staff emphasized the urgent need for protective masks and clean water during the smoke event. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of CHR staff Sharon Granger and Sheryl Nez, their home visits played a crucial role in assessing household conditions and identifying potential health risks. This on-the-ground data was vital in shaping our emergency response and ensuring vulnerable residents received the support they needed.

Tuba City Regional Health Care's Health Promotion Coordinator Ericka Tallsalt took the time to drive into Flagstaff, AZ to purchase water, electrolytes and masks. These items were donated for use during our 24/7 shelter and cooling station a.k.a. the Chapter House.



The Navajo Nation EPA had installed a PurpleAir Sensor that measures the quality of our air in Gap. We had requested to have one in Bitter Springs, but the challenge was having constant internet connection.

The National Forest Department installed air monitors inside the chapter which they referred to as a clear air space. The national forest gave us the equipment to keep inside as long as we need it.

UNITED FOR BODAWAY: COMMUNITY PARTNERS STEP UP



The Red Feather Development Group, Inc. serves the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe with their mission in developing and implementing lasting and impactful housing solutions. Our Chapter Vice-President reached out to their Program Coordinator Duane Tsinigine to generously request of HEPA Air Purifiers. The first day, five of our community members, elders over 70 years old living in Navajo Springs & Bitter Springs communities; received this much needed donation. Another five were delivered to homes by Red Feather Staff Melvita Nez along with Former Chapter President Dorothy Lee.



Navajo Department of Emergency Management arrived with supplies for our community consisting of water, masks and HEPA air purifiers. Their liaison Tyrone Towne provided an impromptu training for the Chapter Staff regarding documentation. This included daily phone logs, shelter sign-ins, donation logs, volunteer contact information and the infamous ICS forms regarding activities and requests.

Director Sharen Sandoval provided much needed assurance that they were aware of the situation our communities were dealing with. Though the fires were not on Navajo, they did effect the reservation and it's community members.



Tyrone Towne of Navajo Dept. of Emergency Management unloading supplies for Chapter Shelter



Canyon Equity, LLC, a group of private hotel investors whom own Hyatt Place in Page, AZ and Amangiri in Big Water, UT; have been supporters of the local chapters for many years. They invested in our youth by purchasing their espresso machine in 2022 and to this day, brings revenue into the Chapter's Youth Enrichment Program. Our Chapter Manager had reached out the first week of our emergency and requested for supplies. General Manager of the Hyatt Place, Nadia SantaCruz and her staff purchased sleeping bags, pillows, throw blankets, hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, shower hygiene kits and first aid kits. In coordination with Executive Assistant Anne Welsh, of Amangiri; a list was provided which included hygiene kits, shower tents, one gallon water jugs and much needed HEPA Air Purifiers. These items will be shipped to the Chapter directly.



The local trading post under Red Mesa Trading company also had seen the need to provide water

for the community. The staff was called to receive water after their own delivery, with which were handed off to the CHR team to start disbursing during their wellness checks.

From the week of visits, primary requests were water, masks and air purifiers.



Bodaway Gap Shelter Set-up
Cots from Navajo Dept. of Emergency Mgmt

STAY CONNECTED WITH BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER

Thank you for reading this month's newsletter!
We appreciate your continued support and involvement in our community

UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

August 2025

BINI'ANIT'ÁATS'OSÍ

The ripening of early crops


DATE	Time (DST)	MEETING/EVENT	LOCATION
August 2	10 am	Chapter PLANNING Mtg	Chapter House
August 5	9 am	D3 Grazing Committee Mtg	Cameron Chapter House
August 6	2 pm	Echo Cliffs Veterans Mtg	Chapter House
August 9	10 am - 2 pm	Back 2 School Bash	Chapter House
August 11	7 pm	ZUMBA	Chapter House
August 12	8am-4pm	TCRHCC Mobile Medical	Parking Lot
August 19	11 am	St. Mary's Food Bank	Chapter House
August 16	9 AM	Planning & Zoning Regular Mtg	Chapter House
August 16	1 PM	Chapter REGULAR Mtg	Chapter House
August 23	2 pm	D3-3 Grazing Permittee Mtg	Chapter House
August 21	9am-12pm	Food Service Certificate Training	Chapter House
August 28	All day	JHE Lottery	Chapter House

Last updated 7.31.25

Please note, dates are subject to change.

CONTACT US

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TOGETHER, WE RISE

LET'S CONTINUE BUILDING A STRONGER, HEALTHIER, AND MORE CONNECTED BODAWAY/GAP COMMUNITY—ONE STEP AT A TIME.

Bulletin Board

Na'ha'ta Dził Breaks ground on Sanders fuel center

SANDERS, Ariz. – Right off I-40 in front of Bashas, community members, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, Council Delegates Otto Tso and Arbin Mitchell celebrated the start of something new.

The \$7 million Sanders Fuel Center project includes a Marathon gas station with eight fuel pumps and a Sonic drive thru which will provide jobs for 25-30 people.

The entire project is funded by the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise where they expect to generate \$6 million in annual revenue. The income will go back into operations and aiding other NNHE aging projects across the Nation.

The Navajo-owned and Navajo-lease spans an initial 25 years with annual rental payments beginning in year five which will be deposited into the Diné Relocatee Fund, providing support to families impacted by the 1974 Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act.

"This is more than a project," Nygren said. "This is for the people, the community and our little ones to not only provide a gas station and food, but give back to those who were relocated to live here. By investing in this project, we're investing in our people and generations to come."

As the fuel center general manager, Herlinda Etsitty, held a teal shovel marking groundbreaking day on July 18, she reminisced on her own family



as they were relocated to the Sanders area following the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act in 1974.

"I relocated here in 1987 with my late parents during the summer of my 6th grade year," Etsitty said. "When we first came out here, there was hardly anything and over time with the community and planning of everything this is what we're creating- the Bashas and now the fuel center- it's going to benefit a lot, new jobs for the community, opportunities, it's exciting."

The project is expected to be completed by spring 2026 welcoming locals and tourists alike taking a pit stop off I-40.

"This was really driven by the community," NNHE Chairman Donovan Hanley said. "The community came to the chapter, the chapter came to the division of economic development and said, 'We really want something here.'"

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/hjcc83de>

Irish Support for Navajo and Hopi During Pandemic Honored with Commemorative Rug



Native News Online Staff
Tue, July 29, 2025 at
5:50 PM MDT

On July 17, 2025, Ceann Comhairle Verona Murphy TD, Speaker of the Irish Parliament, accepted a traditional, handwoven Navajo rug on behalf of the Houses of the Oireachtas and the people of Ireland. The rug was a gift from Yee Ha'ólñí Doo, also known as the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund, presented in appreciation of the Irish people's extraordinary

support for Navajo and Hopi communities during the pandemic and in recognition of the enduring bonds between Indigenous and Irish communities.

The rug was personally delivered to Leinster House in Dublin by Yee Ha'ólñí Doo Board Chair Ethel Branch, Interim Executive Director Mary Francis, and Board Treasurer Vanessa Tullie. Their visit to Ireland included several stops across the country to share the story behind the gift and to deepen cultural connections between their communities and the Irish people.

"It's a great honour to accept this wonderful piece of art on behalf of the Houses of the Oireachtas and the Irish people. It's a tangible reminder that empathy with another's plight can cross a vast ocean and that even small acts of kindness can make a lasting impact," said Ceann Comhairle Verona Murphy TD.

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

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Rodeo Mourns Loss of Spud Jones, First Navajo Bull Rider To Ever Reach The NFR Stage

Rodeo Daily Staff | Jul 9, 2025

Spud Jones will always be remembered in the rodeo world and he will be missed deeply by many.

The 36-year-old New Mexico cowboy was the first Navajo bull rider to make the National Finals Rodeo and it came during their 50th anniversary. This qualification was back in 2008, during which he also was named the champion of the Turquoise Circuit Finals.

sleep despite how tragic the situation is.

Navajo Nation reported that Jones grew up in a one-stoplight town on the Navajo reservation called Tohatchi (N.M.). Bull riding took him all over the country before he ended up under the bright lights of Las Vegas.



His NFR qualification came just two years after buying his professional card at the young age of 20. Spud followed in his father's footsteps who was also a cardholder in the PRCA in the bull riding back in 1987 until 1994.

He dabbled in the Professional Bull Riding (PBR), but not for too long. His first PBR event was in 2007 and his last came in 2011. In his 22 outings he made just under \$7,500. In his debut season he took home a first place finish in Perryton, Texas and a second place title in Craig, Colorado.

The 6-foot-1 cowboy was always caught smiling, especially at the NFR. He chased his dreams and was able to end up on the world's biggest stage.

Spud is survived by both of his parents, Michaelene and J.W. as well as his three sisters: Fallon, Mikala, and Twila. Jones's funeral will take place on July 11 in Gallup, New Mexico.

Rest in Peace, young man.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4foy2ta>

The rodeo family spreads far and wide and the entirety of it is mourning the recent loss of bull rider Spud Jones.

such a young soul, his family and friends say he had been dealing with some health issues. They are thankful that he was able to pass peacefully in his

Although it is hard to grasp a death of

What the presence of sheep means to the Diné

How to look at Milton Snow's historical images of a livestock genocide on the Navajo Nation.

Christine Ami

August 1, 2025.

Like many of the Diné people who frequent Lowe's Market in Window Rock on the Navajo Nation, I have seen Milton Snow's photographs showing Diné agricultural lifeways during the first half of the 20th century. The black-and-white images on the supermarket walls create a nostalgic environment for people seeking groceries in the heart of a food desert. Yet I never made any connection between my shopping trips and the man behind the lens. And I certainly never connected those images to the U.S. government-sponsored Livestock Reduction Program of the 1930s and 1940s, which killed more than 250,000 reservation animals.

Back then, U.S. Indian Commissioner John Collier sought to replace the callousness of previous forced assimilationist approaches with the silkier "Indian New Deal." Collier, who wanted to preserve material culture as well as improve living conditions and poverty levels, hired anthropologists to document languages and brought in photographers to capture lifeways.

One such photographer was Milton "Jack" Snow. Born in Alabama in 1905 and raised in California, Snow worked as archaeological field photographer for the then-Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science, and Art and later as a staff photographer at the Museum of Northern Arizona. During his 20-year tenure with the Navajo Service, he documented the relationship between the U.S. government and Navajo Tribe, including the impacts of the Livestock Reduction Program, which sought to combat land



erosion, first by removing horses and goats, then killing sheep.

The black-and-white images on the supermarket walls create a nostalgic environment for people seeking groceries in the heart of a food desert.

For Diné people, sheep are a blessing with responsibilities that link us to the Diyin Diné'e (Holy People). But to the U.S. government, they were an ecological proxy to "The Navajo Problem," as Gen. James Henry Carleton dubbed the brutal 1863

clashes between the Navajo people and the U.S. government over land, resources and assimilation. On the surface, Collier's approach to solving the "Navajo Problem" was more reasonable — culling Diné livestock simply to "rehabilitate" the land. But sheep removal would also push the people toward assimilation, and it was promoted despite the Treaty of 1868, which had not only returned Diné people to our homelands following incarceration at Fort Sumner, but also returned sheep to our stewardship.

During the reduction, many sheep and goats were trailered to meat-processing facilities, while others were shot or driven off cliffs. The most vivid accounts document how live sheep were doused with coal oil and set ablaze. This did more than scorch the Diné sheep economic system; it released an unrelenting sorrow, leaving Diné people and sheep to sift through the ashes of Dibé éí Diné be' iiná (the "Sheep Is Life" philosophy) as they rebuilt their relationships with the U.S. government and with each other.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/3UakOGG>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Postitons

Naanish ʔʔ'idaat'éhigíí

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
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Administrative Service Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, NM	\$31,257.36	8/5/2025
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Capital Projects Management Department

Project Manager (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$51,364.80	8/4/2025
Project Manager (S)	Tuba City, AZ	\$51,364.80	8/5/2025
Engineering Technician (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$31,257.36	8/5/2025
Senior Engineering Technician (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$37,062.00	8/5/2025
Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$78,613.20	8/8/2025

Community Housing & Infrastructure Department

Housing Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$47,105.28	8/15/2025
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Executive Administration

Deputy Division Director (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$85,712.40	8/12/2025
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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
<https://apply.navajo-nsn.gov/>

Quote of the Month

Saad ʔʔ
 Nitsáhakeesigíí

Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigíí
 Naashch'ʔʔ'

SEEK WISDOM. NOT
 KNOWLEDGE

*Knowledge is of the past,
 Wisdom is of the future*
 -LUMBEE PROVERB



Motivational Speaker

Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

World Population Day: July 11, 2025

July 10, 2025

Press Release Number: CB25-SFS.1

World Population Day has been observed on July 11 every year since 1990.

The World Population Clock provides an estimate of the global population at a given moment as well as an indication of how fast it is growing.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the number of people in the world population by combining past population growth statistics with data for individual countries and areas from the International Database (IDB).

The world population reached 8 billion in 2023. It is projected to reach 8.1 billion this year, 9 billion in 2038, 10 billion in 2057 and peak at 10.9 billion in 2098 before declining, according to IDB projections.

The Census Bureau developed these estimates by analyzing available population, fertility, mortality and migration data. For most countries, adjustments to the data are necessary to correct for errors. Some available data for estimates may be several years old, so the population data used for our World Population Clock are projections from those earlier estimates. As new data become available, estimates and projections may change.



Key Stats

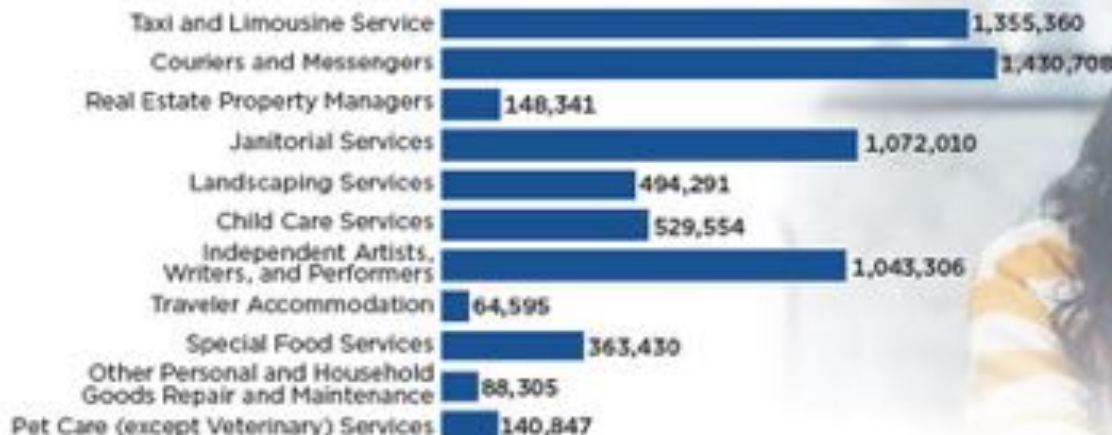
The Census Bureau's International Database was developed to provide accurate and timely demographic measures of populations around the world. The IDB provides estimates and projections for 227 countries and areas with populations of 5,000 or more and are recognized by the U.S. Department of State.

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

THE GIG IS UP↑

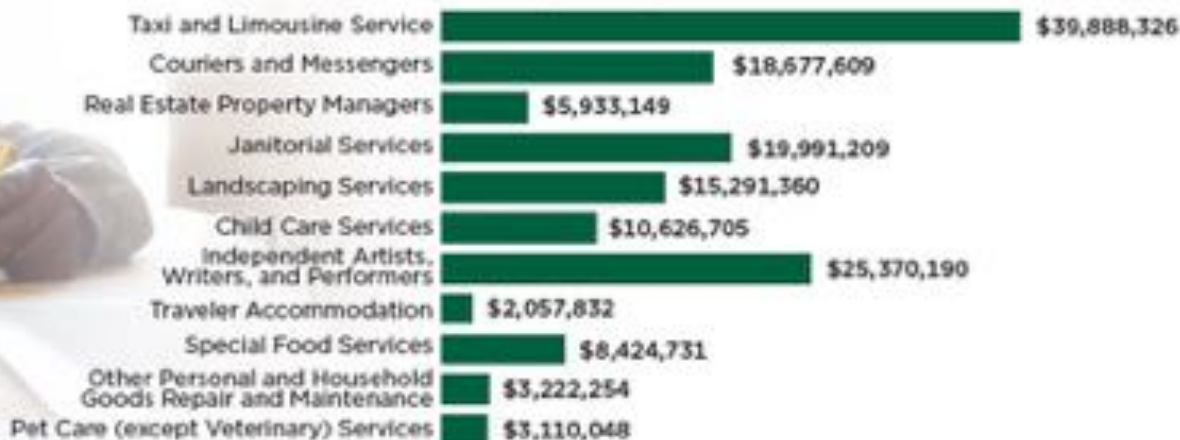
2023 Nonemployer Statistics Measures Growing Gig Economy Activity

Number of Individual Proprietorships In Selected Industries



Receipts for Individual Proprietorships In Selected Industries

(In thousands)



Note: The industries shown reflect 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) definitions and were selected because individual proprietorships classified in these industries are likely to have some portion of their receipts attributed to gig activities. The portion of receipts attributed to gig activities is unknown because this information is not available in the administrative data used to produce Nonemployer Statistics. NAICS codes listed in the order they appear above include 4853, 482, 53131, 56172, 56171, 62441, 71251, 7111, 7223, 81148, and 86291. For more information on methodology, including disclosure avoidance methods, visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html.

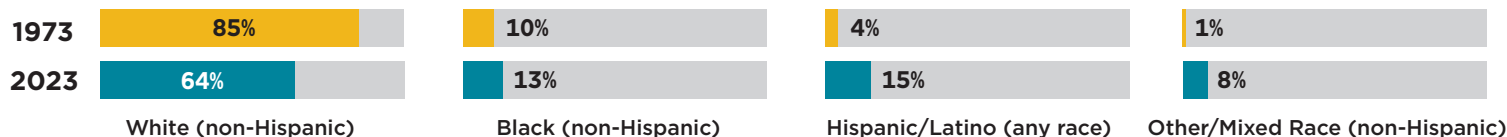


50 Years of the American Housing Survey: Households Then (1973) and Now (2023)



Changes in Householder Race and Ethnicity

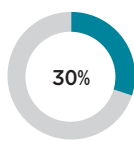
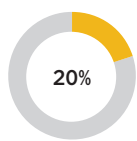
1973
2023



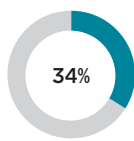
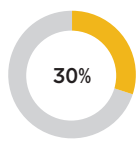
Household Size Decreased

Number in household

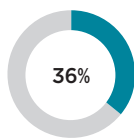
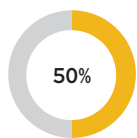
One person



Two people



Three or more people



Household Composition Changed

Married householder living with spouse

66%

with spouse

47%

Householder living with own children

43%

24%

Householder living with extended family

6%

9%

Householder living with nonrelatives

3%

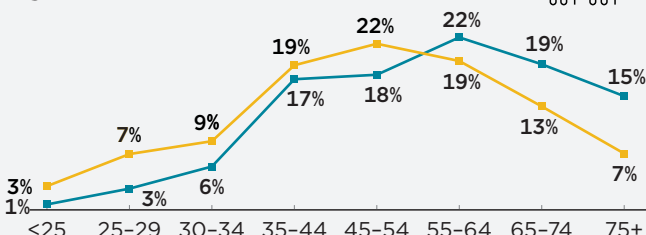
10%



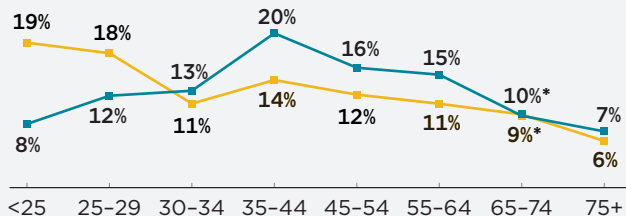
Note: Data on race/ethnicity, marital status, household social characteristics, age, veteran or active military status, and move-in pertain to the householder (the primary owner, renter, or occupant). Household composition categories are not mutually exclusive. More than one category may apply to a unit. "Extended family" means a relative of the householder who is not their spouse or child. When necessary, variables from 2023 and 1973 were recoded for compatibility. Note that in 1973, the military variable reflects householder's service status as of 1970 (three years prior to the survey), whereas in 2023, the military variable reflects householder's current service status. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. All comparisons between 1973 and 2023 are significantly different at the 90 percent level, except for one age comparison. Definitions and more information on confidentiality protection, methodology, and sampling and nonsampling error are available at www.census.gov/ahs. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System [DMS] number: P-7533599; Disclosure Review Board [DRB] approval number: CBDRB-FY25-SEHSD003-066).

Householder Age Increased

Age distribution of owners



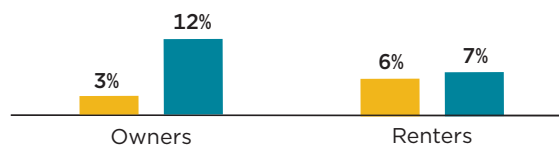
Age distribution of renters



*Not statistically different between 1973 and 2023.

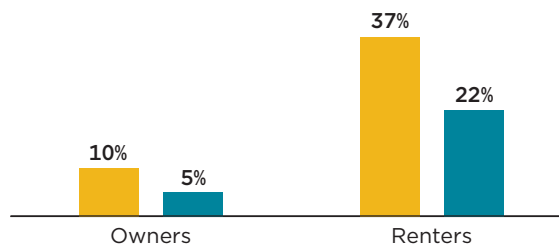
More Veterans and Service Members Became Homeowners

Percent of householders with veteran or active military status



Fewer Owners and Renters Recently Moved

Percent of householders who moved in within last 12 months





NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Get Ready, it's here!

COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING WEBSITE!!



What does the website entail?

- Community land use planning orientation video - you can now watch the orientation video virtually!
- Community land use planning documents:
 - Community Assessment Surveys
 - CLUPC Requirement listings
 - Title 26 of the NN Code, Section 2004; Community Based Land Use Plan; Land Use Variations
- Resources
 - Census 2020 Website
 - Map Request
- Community Land Use PowerPoint
- Technical Assistance Request link



Scan me!

Ya'iishjááshtsoh 2025

The DCD Newsletter, "Community Info", is produced monthly by the Division of Community Development and is a resource for division staff and chapters.

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