

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníligíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Ghaaji

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Nít béeé hoziníshii...

Did You Know...

There are more than 1,300 bat species!

That makes them the second most common group of mammals, after rodents. In fact, around a fifth of all mammals on Earth are bats!

Some bat species weigh less than a penny, while others have a whopping 1.8 m wingspan!

Some of the biggest bat species are part of a group known as megabats! These whopping bats live in the tropics, where they hang out in trees, snacking on fruit, nectar, and pollen. <https://bit.ly/47MVZba>

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

Events:

October: Ghaaji - Separation of Seasons

October 1: Navajo New Year's Day
October 13: Indigenous People Day
October 31: Halloween

November: Nítch'its'ósí - Slender Winds

November 2: Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 11: Veterans Day
November 27: Thanksgiving Day
November 28: Navajo Nation Family Day

Precisely Announces 2025 Data Integrity Award Winners Driving AI Innovation, Business Impact, and Societal Good

October 22, 2025

Precisely, the global integrity, today winners of its 2025 Awards, honoring have harnessed a c h i e v e results. Now in its awards celebrate advance innovation, efficiency, and make difference in society integrity data.

The 2025 Data winners include:

Navajo Addressing Department – also be a powerful impact. On the lack of standard long denied essential services – delivery to and utilities to driver Navajo Addressing Department is by physically public facilities, and accurate house with Precisely, they PreciselyIDs to new them visible to providers, and service organizations, while also advancing efforts for USPS ZIP code inclusion.



leader in data announced the Data Integrity organizations that trusted data to transformative second year, the enterprises that improve operational a meaningful through high-

Integrity Awards

A u t h o r i t y Trusted data can driver for social Navajo Nation, the street addresses has residents access to from voting and mail emergency response license renewal. The A u t h o r i t y tackling this barrier mapping homes, roadways to create numbers. Partnering are assigning unique addresses, making couriers, mortgage

"This initiative is more than just about creating addresses – it's about restoring recognition and inclusion to our indigenous communities," said M. C. Baldwin, GIS/Rural Addressing Coordinator at the Navajo Addressing Authority Department. "The work we've done has already improved emergency response, with accurate house numbers guiding essential services more effectively. Together with the Precisely team, we're setting a precedent for how geospatial technology can be powerfully harnessed to help combat inequality for a better Navajoland." READ MORE AT: <https://tinyurl.com/38u8926z>

Houck Chapter Receives Sign Materials



The Houck Chapter has taken an important step forward in community infrastructure improvement. On October 31, the chapter received its shipment of roadway sign materials—an exciting milestone. Houck is one of the Section 3 recipients funded under resolution CJNI-29-22 through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

This delivery marks Houck as the second chapter to receive sign materials through this funding initiative. The first chapter, Sawmill, has already begun installing new intersection signs and is making steady progress toward strengthening roadway safety and navigation for community members.

Houck Chapter staff shared their excitement as the delivery arrived, highlighting the importance of these improvements for residents and local travelers. With the materials now onsite, Houck is preparing to move forward with installation and support safer, more accessible community routes.

The Division of Community Development continues to support chapters as they advance local infrastructure priorities through ARPA-funded projects. More chapters are expected to receive sign materials in the coming months as this initiative progresses.



Building the Nation: CPMD Strengthens Project Delivery Across the Navajo Nation

Division of Community Development – Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD)

At the heart of the Navajo Nation's infrastructure progress is the Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD), a program within the Division of Community Development (DCD) dedicated to turning community visions into reality. From multipurpose buildings and senior centers to powerline extensions and water system installations, CPMD manages the planning, design, and construction of vital projects that improve quality of life across the Nation.

"Every project we complete strengthens our communities and ensures that services reach those who need them most," said CPMD staff. "Our focus is on building efficiently, safely, and with accountability."

CPMD's responsibilities go beyond construction oversight — the team assists Chapters and Navajo Nation departments with project advertising, contract approvals, issuance of Notices to Proceed, construction monitoring, and securing Certificates of Occupancy.

Raising the Bar: 2025 Accomplishments

Expanding Project Management Capacity

This year, CPMD took decisive steps to enhance its internal capacity by recruiting skilled project managers and reclassifying key positions to better align with operational needs. A new Project Manager joined the team in September 2025, with more hiring underway to meet the growing demand for professional project oversight across the Navajo Nation.

Partnering for Progress

To keep pace with an expanding project portfolio, CPMD formed a partnership with the Parsons Project Management Firm. The collaboration has strengthened project planning, accelerated completion timelines, and improved internal workflows. Team morale and collaboration have flourished under this partnership, creating what staff describe as "a renewed sense of momentum and purpose."

Investing in Communities with Sihasin Funds

CPMD continues to make meaningful progress through the Sihasin Fund Program, which supports heavy equipment and vehicle purchases for local Chapters. In October 2025, a brand-new septic truck was delivered to the Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter, meeting a critical sanitation need. To date, 59 Chapters have received allocations, with 18 specifically for vehicles or heavy equipment, including trailers and ATVs.

Empowering Staff Through Training

Recognizing that great projects begin with knowledgeable teams, CPMD has invested in staff training focused on the New Mexico Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and the Navajo Nation Procurement Process. These efforts ensure staff remain current, capable, and confident in managing projects of every size and scope.

On the Ground: Major Projects in Motion

CPMD's commitment to quality and accountability is evident in a growing list of active and nearly completed projects across the Navajo Nation:

- Mariano Lake Multi-Purpose Building – Construction is 30% complete, bolstered by an additional \$2.5 million in funding from the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund.
- St. Michaels Chapter Renovation – Nearing completion at 99%, the newly rebuilt facility awaits final inspection and Certificate of Occupancy.
- Oak Springs Chapter Renovation – 99% complete, with additional drainage improvements under review for alternative funding.
- Ramah Chapter Renovation – 99.9% complete; final exterior work underway before inspection and closeout.
- Nazlini Senior Center – 99.9% complete, pending final reports from OEH/IHS.
- Seed Bank Building (Window Rock) – 98% complete, with final inspections scheduled.
- Cameron Multipurpose Building – Contract approved through the 164 process, awaiting final documentation from the Office of Contracting.

Looking Ahead

As CPMD moves forward, the department continues to prioritize collaboration, accountability, and innovation in every phase of project delivery. With strengthened partnerships, skilled personnel, and a clear vision, CPMD is paving the way for stronger, more sustainable communities across the Navajo Nation.

"Our work reflects the resilience and determination of the Navajo people," said CPMD staff. "Together, we're building the infrastructure that supports future generations."

SIHASIN HEAVY EQUIPMENT UPDATE



The Capital Project Management Department (CPMD) continues to advance community infrastructure and service capacity through the Sihasin HEP Projects initiative. Account Maintenance Specialist Selina Yazzie recently reported several successful equipment acquisitions utilizing Sihasin Funds for heavy equipment and vehicles.

Among the notable achievements, the Two Grey Hills Chapter has received a new septic truck, marking the successful conclusion of a purchase process that began in 2022. The chapter's initial effort to acquire the vehicle was delayed when the previous truck was damaged in transit, making this delivery an important milestone that enhances local utility services.

Additionally, the Tse Si Ani (Lupton) Chapter has purchased an ATV, while both the Church Rock and Sanostee Chapters have collected their trailers from Navajo Tractor and Don Reeves. These acquisitions are critical in supporting chapter operations and improving service delivery to community members.

While these four purchases have been completed, 20 additional pieces of equipment and vehicles remain pending payment under the ongoing Sihasin HEP Projects.

Selina Yazzie, who oversees the Sihasin HEP Projects as part of her role with CPMD, continues to assist project managers in facilitating timely purchases and maintaining financial accuracy. Her efforts contribute to ensuring that chapters across the Navajo Nation receive the tools and resources necessary to strengthen their local infrastructure and operations.



COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING UPDATES & PROGRESS



Forest Lake Chapter Makes Strong Progress in Community Land Use Planning!

Forest Lake Chapter recently completed two productive days of intensive work sessions focused on the Community Land Use Planning orientation. The CLUPC worked diligently through consecutive sessions, making remarkable progress on updating their planning manual.

In accordance with the Navajo Nation Code Title 26, nearly all required sections of the manual have been completed—only two remain, which will be finalized during the next work session scheduled for November.

The committee's strong dedication and teamwork have kept them right on track with their timeline for manual recertification, projected for early spring 2026.

Congratulations to Forest Lake Chapter and the CLUPC for your commitment, collaboration, and determination to move your community planning efforts forward!

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS

ASC Department Highlights – October 2025

In October 2025, the Administrative Service Centers continued their commitment to supporting chapters through a range of trainings, meetings, and collaborative sessions. Local offices engaged with key partners such as the Department of Emergency Management, National Weather Service, and Navajo Nation legislative representatives to strengthen emergency preparedness, fiscal accountability, and program management. Staff provided chapter-level guidance on fixed assets, budgeting procedures, veterans fund updates, and personnel policies, while also facilitating internal coordination meetings to enhance consistency across ASC operations.

Shiprock ASC

October 9, 2025 – Virtual Meeting

Staff participated in an Emergency Response to Potential Flooding training conducted in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service, focusing on preparedness and mitigation planning for flood-prone communities.

Crownpoint ASC

October 6, 2025 – Rio Rancho, NM

Staff attended a Fixed Assets Refresher Training reviewing topics such as fixed asset entries, journal voucher processing, asset transfers, depreciation, disposal procedures, and asset linking.

October 15, 2025 – Littlewater Chapter

ASC and chapter staff met to review the NN UES Memorandum (October 13, 2025), the Chapter Training Needs Assessment (due October 17), and updates on Fund 16 Veterans Fund. Presentations also covered sections of the FY2026 Budget Instructions Manual Appendix M and FY2025 Appendix M-1, including budget preparation policies, timetables, and ASC monitoring forms. Presenters included SPPS and Administrative Services Office staff.

October 16, 2025 – Zoom Meeting

Staff participated in a briefing on DCD ASC Veteran Fund Legislation presented by Delegate Jesus.

Kayenta ASC

October 10, 2025 – Red Mesa Chapter

ASC staff conducted MIP training with Red Mesa AMS, providing guidance on monthly reports, fund balance tracking, and fiscal reporting procedures.

October 24, 2025 – Email and Phone

Staff provided technical guidance to chapters on personnel policy and check processing procedures.

Dilkon ASC

October 22, 2025 – Saint Michaels Chapter

Staff led a Budget Work Session focusing on carry-over funds and financial planning for upcoming fiscal periods.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS



Gallup ASC Hosts Staff Meeting at Chichiltah Chapter

On October 29, 2025, the Gallup ASC Office held a staff meeting at Chichiltah Chapter to review key departmental priorities and updates. The agenda included a work session on the Emergency Response Plan, progress updates on Five Management System reviews and policy sessions for assigned chapters, and upcoming AMS and CSC training cycles. Staff also discussed outstanding financial reports, annual and carryover budget allocations, and plans for the next in-person staff meeting scheduled for November at Calvin Hall, UNM-Gallup.

Story Submission: Gallup ASC, Tisheena Loley, Office Specialist

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS



Crownpoint ASC Staff Meeting Held at Casamero Lake

On October 29, 2025, the Crownpoint ASC Office convened its monthly Staff and Officials Meeting at Casamero Lake Chapter. The session featured presentations on the New Mexico Capital Outlay Vetting Process by Sharilene Jeff, Senior Programs and Projects Specialist (SPPS), and Navajo Division of Transportation updates by Senior Planner Regina Martinez. Staff also reviewed and discussed internal chapter policies and procedures, Fund 16 Veteran updates, and findings from the Office of the Auditor General. Additional agenda items included a discussion on the Navajo Nation's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) initiative and upcoming 25th NNC RDC Public Hearing in Gallup. The meeting concluded with planning for future training topics and a reminder of the upcoming Crownpoint ASC Christmas Monthly Meeting.

Story Submission: Crownpoint ASC, Heather Yazzie-Kinlacheeny, SPPS

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS

Ft. Defiance ASC Welcomes new Administrative Services Officer

Yá'át'ééh, My name is Erica Christie-Sorrell, I am the new Administrative Service Officer for Fort Defiance Agency Administrative Service Centers. I am salt water clan born for German and my maternal clan is one who walks around and paternal clan is German. I am originally from Oak Springs, AZ and I look forward to this new work journey with the Division of Community Development.

I selected this position because my goal has always been to help my Dine people and uplift the community whether that be unobtrusively or directly in any capacity, and I believe this position will help me accomplish those goals. I believe in empowering our native communities to reach a level of self-subsistence and sovereignty. I enjoy learning more about agriculture and all the resources that are out there to benefit an organic way of life because it truly does start with you to plant a seed.

Thank you,

Erica Christie-Sorrell, ASO



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS

Welcome to Our New Team Members!

This month, the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) welcomed three new staff members to the chapters. The positions include one (1) Community Services Coordinator and two (2) Accounts Maintenance Specialists, helping to fill long-standing vacancies at the local level.

These positions are essential to ensuring that chapters can provide consistent services and maintain strong operations for their communities. With their addition, the ASC continues to strengthen its capacity to support chapters across the Navajo Nation.

Staff Name:	Chapter:	Position
Etheleen Moses	Smith Lake Chapter	AMS
Jocelyn Hunzeker	White Cone Chapter	CSC
Keithryn Hyden-Howard	Cameron Chapter	AMS

The department is excited to welcome these new team members and looks forward to the positive impact they will bring in advancing chapter services under the Division of Community Development.

HALLOWEEN DCD COSTUME CONTEST

The Division of Community Development (DCD) celebrated Halloween 2025 with its first-ever division-wide Virtual Costume Contest, bringing together staff and chapters from across the Navajo Nation for some spooky, creative fun — all online!

A total of 15 contestants entered the competition, showcasing an impressive variety of costumes that ranged from frightening to funny. Staff across DCD joined in to cast their votes, with 67 total votes tallied to determine the winners in three prize categories:

- Best Overall Costume
- Scariest Costume
- Funniest Costume

This unique virtual event was a first for DCD, encouraging creativity, engagement, and camaraderie across programs and the 110 Navajo Nation Chapters. Special thanks to our Division Managers for their generous prize donations and to everyone who participated for helping make this online celebration a success!





Lena Poyer
Kayenta ASC SPPS



Zorro (Ms)

ENTRY #9



The Terrifier

ENTRY #10



Masani

ENTRY #15

HALLOWEEN

DCD COSTUME CONTEST

Thank you to all who participated!



Bulletin Board

Navajo elder lived in dirt-floor shack with no electricity for 77 years — now she's finally getting a real house. How her dream came true in her 80s

By Rudro Chakrabarti

Updated Oct 11, 2025

For most of her life, Victoria Benally has lived in a one-room shack with dirt floors, a leaking roof and walls patched with blankets and plastic.

Up until three years ago, the home had no electricity.

Now in her 80s, Benally is finally getting a new home: a modular unit with bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and working utilities.

Benally is one of 84 Navajo elders selected to receive housing through a \$14-million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiative managed by the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission.

The program delivers modular homes to older residents in isolated parts of the Navajo Nation who have long lacked reliable housing. Commission director Sarah Slim said the effort represents "stability, dignity and hope for our Navajo people."

Benally's property, like many in the area, is difficult to reach. Soft sand and steep terrain make the road nearly impassable without four-wheel drive, and even ambulances struggle to access it.

In 2022, a local initiative funded by the Indian Community Development Block Grant and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority extended power lines to her neighborhood, connecting 18 homes to the grid for the first time. She still has no running water.

The new home will come equipped with plumbing, but crews will need to extend utility lines to reach her remote site — a task that can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Slim said the project's budget did not include a separate allocation for infrastructure, so the commission is seeking additional support to fill those gaps.

Community advocate Angelita Nez, who helped push for Benally's inclusion in the program, said she expects delivery before winter. "She has a house with her name on it," Nez tells KTVB7. "It's just a matter of getting it to her."

Local fix points to a national challenge

Benally's new home represents more than one family's long wait — it highlights how infrastructure and housing shortages intersect in many parts of the U.S., particularly across rural and Indigenous lands.



For the Navajo Nation, the problem is rooted in decades of federal restrictions. From 1966 to 2009, the Bennett Freeze banned construction and improvements across roughly 1.5 million acres of Navajo land. The freeze was intended to resolve land disputes but effectively halted development for more than 40 years, leaving many communities without basic housing and utilities.

The ARPA-funded modular housing program is one of several recent attempts to reverse those effects. Earlier this year, the Navajo Nation allocated \$24 million to expand modular manufacturing capacity near Page, Arizona, to produce more prefabricated homes for tribal residents.

Still, these programs face the same constraints seen nationwide: high building costs, supply bottlenecks and gaps in infrastructure that prevent affordable housing from being deployed at scale.

Across the U.S., the median home sale price was about \$439,000 as of August 2025, according to Redfin. Mortgage rates remain elevated, and the housing deficit reached roughly 4.7 million units in 2023, Zillow reports.

That combination has put homeownership out of reach for many

households — and spurred interest in faster, lower-cost building techniques like modular housing.

These homes are built in sections in factories, transported and assembled on-site, allowing for consistent quality control and shorter construction timelines.

Colorado-based modular builder Fading West says it can complete homes in half the time and at up to 20% lower cost than conventional builds, according to CNBC. The company partnered with FEMA in 2023 to deliver modular housing for wildfire survivors in Maui — marking the first time the agency used modular structures instead of trailers.

Even so, modular homes accounted for just 3% of new single-family completions in 2024, based on U.S. Census data analyzed by the National Association of Home Builders. The limited market share reflects regulatory barriers and the challenge of matching homes with prepared land and infrastructure — the same issue confronting Benally's rural community.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/42zsrk5h>

UNM alum contributes to Navajo language preservation

By Anna Padilla November 03, 2025

A University of New Mexico alumnus made it his goal to make the Navajo language easier to learn. Now, he's getting to see in real time how his efforts are impacting the community.

Lukas Denk's and Melvatha Chee's Navajo Corpus of Historical Narratives was recently published on UNM's digital repository. It was a project funded by the Center for Regional Studies. Denk was a graduate student studying linguistics when he pitched the idea of publishing a corpus.

A corpus is a digital resource for linguistics to gather language data that shows how native language speakers form sentences.

This Navajo Corpus is comprised of nine narratives written by various authors. These stories are comprised of historical events and traditional narratives that are important to the community. "I wanted to have a compilation of stories that represent the diversity of genres and story styles," Denk said.

Using the translation of the sentences in those narratives and a program called Flex, Denk worked with Professor Melvatha Chee to break down components of the words

and translate them. Denk now works at Navajo Technical University and uses the corpus to teach Navajo students and teachers interested in learning. He said most of his students like using the corpus because it is like a math problem; it shows how to get to the result.

"It's a good resource because it's the first research for Navajo that has so much text that can break down words," Denk said. "Prior resources would only provide word-by-word translations but not break down each component of the word. Second language learners don't usually learn words by memorizing them; they want to know what makes that word look and sound that way."

A challenge with the language is that every verb has different rules in how they're expressed which is what sets Navajo apart from other languages. "The Navajo language has more resources than any other Native American language, so I didn't have to start from scratch," Denk said.

Denk began working on this as part of another project researching the Navajo language. It turned out he needed a corpus to do his research and decided to lead the project himself.

"My hope is that people can use it for not only research but

for educational purposes and expand on it. This is the first version, but I've already received feedback from Navajo language speakers," Denk said. "I hope it can be accessible and something less intimidating for someone learning the language."

Denk encourages feedback on the publication. "Let me know if something has been misrepresented or if there's something incorrect. I want to make this a collaborative project," Denk said.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/bdsjnw5c>



Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Māori Speech AI Model Helps Preserve and Promote New Zealand Indigenous Language

Broadcasting organization Te Hiku Media's automatic speech recognition model transcribes te reo Māori with 92% accuracy using trustworthy AI and the NVIDIA NeMo toolkit.

January 16, 2024 by Angie Lee

Indigenous languages are under threat. Some 3,000 – three-quarters of the total – could disappear before the end of the century, or one every two weeks, according to UNESCO.

As part of a movement to protect such languages, New Zealand's Te Hiku Media, a broadcaster focused on the Māori people's indigenous language known as te reo, is using trustworthy AI to help preserve and revitalize the tongue.

Using ethical, transparent methods of speech data collection and analysis to maintain data sovereignty for the Māori people, Te Hiku Media is developing automatic speech recognition (ASR) models for te reo, which is a Polynesian language.

Built using the open-source NVIDIA NeMo toolkit for ASR and NVIDIA A100 Tensor Core GPUs, the speech-to-text models transcribe te reo with 92% accuracy. It can also transcribe bilingual speech using English and te reo with 82% accuracy. They're pivotal tools, made by and for the Māori people, that are helping preserve and amplify their stories.

"There's immense value in using NVIDIA's open-source technologies to build the tools we need to ultimately achieve our mission, which is the preservation, promotion and revitalization of te reo Māori," said Keoni Mahelona, chief technology officer at Te Hiku Media, who leads a team of data scientists and developers, as well as Māori language experts and data curators, working on the project.

"We're also helping guide the industry on ethical ways of using data and technologies to ensure they're used for the empowerment of marginalized communities," added Mahelona, a Native Hawaiian now living in New Zealand.

Building a 'House of Speech'

Te Hiku Media began more than three decades ago as a radio station aiming to ensure te reo had space on the airwaves. Over the years, the organization incorporated television broadcasting and, with the rise of the internet, it convened a meeting in 2013 with the community's elders to form a strategy for sharing content in the digital era.

"The elders agreed that we should make the stories accessible online for our community members – rather than just keeping our archives on cassettes in boxes – but once we had that objective, the

challenge was how to do this correctly, in alignment with our strong roots in valuing sovereignty," Mahelona said.

Instead of uploading its video and audio sources to popular, global platforms – which, in their terms and conditions of use, require signing over certain rights related to the content – Te Hiku Media decided to build its own content distribution platform.

Called Whare Kōrero – meaning "house of speech" – the platform now holds more than 30 years' worth of digitized, archival material featuring about 1,000 hours of te reo native speakers, some of whom were born in the late 19th century, as well as more recent content from second-language learners and bilingual Māori people.

Now, around 20 Māori radio stations use and upload their content to Whare Kōrero. Community members can access the content through an app.

"It's an invaluable resource of acoustic data," Mahelona said.

Turning to Trustworthy AI

Such a trove held incredible value for those working to revitalize the language, the Te Hiku Media team quickly realized, but manual transcription required pulling lots of time and effort from limited resources. So began the organization's trustworthy AI efforts, in 2016, to accelerate its work using ASR.

"No one would have a clue that there are eight NVIDIA A100 GPUs in our derelict, rundown, musky-smelling building in the far north of New Zealand – training and building Māori language models," Mahelona said. "But the work has been game-changing for us."

To collect speech data in a transparent, ethically compliant, community-oriented way, Te Hiku Media began by explaining its cause to elders, garnering their support and asking them to come to the station to read phrases aloud.

"It was really important that we had the support of the elders and that we recorded their voices, because that's the sort of content we want to transcribe," Mahelona said. "But eventually these efforts didn't scale – we needed second-language learners, kids, middle-aged people and a lot more speech data in general."



So, the organization ran a crowdsourcing campaign, Kōrero Māori, to collect highly labeled speech samples according to the Kaitiakitanga license, which ensures Te Hiku Media uses the data only for the benefit of the Māori people.

In just 10 days, more than 2,500 signed up to read 200,000+ phrases, providing over 300 hours of labeled speech data, which was used to build and train the te reo Māori ASR models.

In addition to other open-source trustworthy AI tools, Te Hiku Media now uses the NVIDIA NeMo toolkit's ASR module for speech AI throughout its entire pipeline. The NeMo toolkit comprises building blocks called neural modules and includes pretrained models for language model development.

"It's been absolutely amazing – NVIDIA's open-source NeMo enabled our ASR models to be bilingual and added automatic punctuation to our transcriptions," Mahelona said.

Te Hiku Media's ASR models are the engines running behind Kaituhi, a te reo Māori transcription service now available online.

The efforts have spurred similar ASR projects now underway by Native Hawaiians and the Mohawk people in southeastern Canada.

"It's indigenous-led work in trustworthy AI that's inspiring other indigenous groups to think: 'If they can do it, we can do it, too,'" Mahelona said.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/4r4s9vtp>

2025 Tribal Adaptive Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship Recipients Announced

Native News Online Staff

Tue, October 28, 2025 at 7:03 AM MDT

Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives and Tribal Adaptive Organization have announced the winners of the fourth annual Tribal Adaptive Student-Athlete of the Year Award, recognizing two outstanding Native student-athletes with physical disabilities.

The award, launched in 2021, honors one male and one female student-athlete who have demonstrated resilience, dedication, and achievement both in the classroom and in competitive sports. The initiative aims to inspire Native youth living with disabilities to pursue adaptive sports and higher education opportunities.

Although adaptive sports programs at the collegiate level have grown nationwide, physically and mobility-impaired Native American student-athletes remain underrepresented. Eve's Fund

and Tribal Adaptive hope that these annual awards will help change that narrative.

"The awards recognize the two students' hard work and perseverance in overcoming obstacles to achieving their goals, both as athletes and students, redefining the possibilities for young people with physical disabilities," the organizations said in a joint statement.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/4oQ989i>



PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Positions

Naanish ʔaʔ'idaat'éhigíí

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
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Administrative Service Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	\$31,257.36	11/3/2025
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$44,098.56	11/4/2025
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$44,098.56	11/5/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Gadii Ahi, NM	\$31,257.36	11/12/2025
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Nageezi, NM	\$44,098.56	11/13/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Becenti, NM	\$31,257.36	11/14/2025

Capital Projects Management Department

Project Manager (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$51,364.80	11/5/2025
Project Manager (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$51,364.80	11/5/2025
Senior Accountant (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$56,000.16	11/5/2025

Solid Waste Management Department

Office Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$31,257.36	11/3/2025
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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 Baa
Nitsáhakeesigíí

Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigíí
Naashch'aa'



Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

Halloween: October 31, 2025

September 30, 2025

Press Release Number: CB25-FF.08

Halloween is a festive celebration characterized by activities like carving pumpkins and donning masks and costumes to trick-or-treat. Some trace the spooky tradition to the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. When large numbers of Irish and other immigrants went to the United States beginning in the mid-19th century, they took their Halloween customs with them. In the 20th century, Halloween, celebrated October 31 (the night before All Saints' or All Hallows' Day), became a favorite pastime, especially among kids.

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

Trick or Treat!

133.2 million

The number of occupied U.S. housing units – potential stops for trick-or-treaters – in 2023.

Source: 2023 American Housing Survey

73.1 million

The estimated number of U.S. children under the age of 18 (read: potential trick-or-treaters) as of July 1, 2024.

Source: Vintage 2024 Population Estimates

56.6 million

The number of occupied U.S. housing units with steps that trick-or-treaters had to climb to collect their treats – or tricks – in 2023.

2023 American Housing Survey

Sweet Economic Statistics

Source: 2023 County Business Patterns*

3,409

The number of U.S. confectionery and nut stores in 2023.

681

The number of U.S. formal wear and costume rental establishments in 2023.

280

The number of U.S. establishments that primarily produced products from cacao beans in 2023.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2025/halloween.html>

Sweet Economic Statistics



3,409

Total number of U.S. confectionery and nut stores



681

U.S. formal wear and costume rental establishments



280

U.S. chocolate and confectionery manufacturing plants

Note: Industries shown reflect 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) definitions. NAICS industries listed in the order in which they appear above include 445292, 532281, and 31030. For more information on methodology, including disclosure avoidance methods, visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbpa.html.

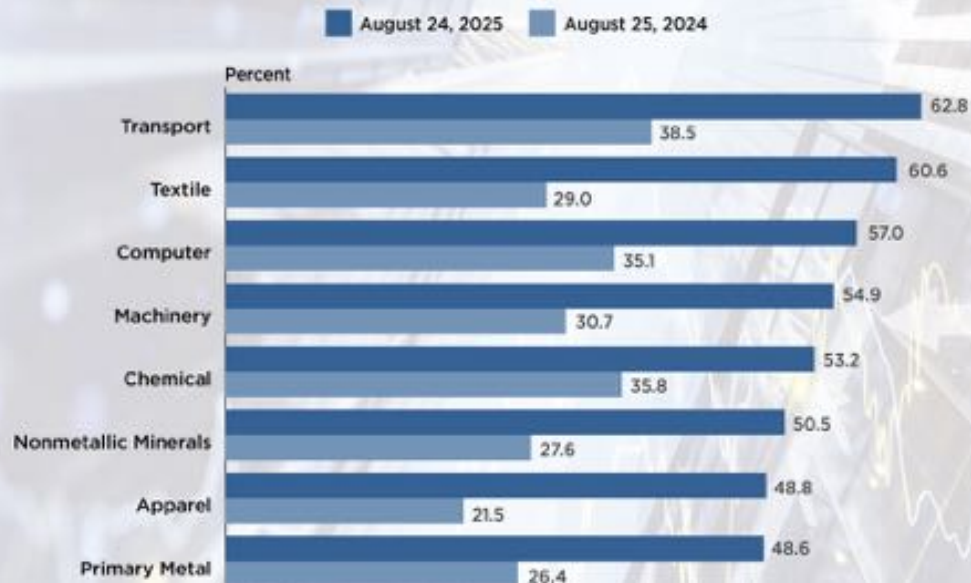
United States[®]
Census
Bureau

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

Source: 2023 County Business Patterns

Manufacturing Costs: 2024–2025

Share of Businesses Reporting Increased Prices Paid



Note: The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data (Project No. P-7529868). Data collected from August 12 to 25, 2024, and August 11 to 24, 2025.



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!



TRASH SAFETY TIPS



Keep Our Community Clean & Safe

Safe Disposal Practices

- Always bag your trash securely before placing it in the bin.
- Avoid overfilling bins- lids should close completely
- Dispose of sharp objects (glass, metals, needles) in sealed containers
- Keep hazardous waste (chemicals, batteries, oil) out of regular trash

Bin Safety

- Place bins on flat surface to prevent tipping.
- Keep bins away from children.
- Do not climb into or play around bins and dumpsters.
- Watch for moving trucks when bins are being serviced.

Community responsibility

- Report illegal dumping to your chapter officials or Solid Waste Management.
- Participate in community clean-up events.
- Reduce waste by recycling and composting when possible.

Remember

- A clean and safe community benefits you.
- Do your part - handle trash responsibly.



For Questions or To Report Illegal Dumping

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development - Solid Waste Management Department

ltullie@nndcd.org
(505) 318 - 6860



Bini'anit'ááts'ósi 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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