

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahoóníílgíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Yasnilt'ees

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Nił bée hoziníshii...

Did You Know...

Hopi and Pueblo communities have a traditional "Navajo Dance" (or Navatu) where dancers dress as Navajo people, wearing headbands, conch belts, and sometimes carrying props to represent neighbors. These dances often feature stylized, traditional Navajo attire and can include humorous elements, representing friendship, historical interaction, and cultural exchange.

Events:

T'aán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

January: Yasnilt'ees - The Thawing of Snow

January 1: New Year's Day

January 19: Martin Luther King Day

February: Atsá Biyáázh - Eaglets Hatching

February 1: Groundhog Day, Wear Red Day (Womens' Heart Awareness)

February 8: Super Bowl Sunday

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 16: Presidents' Day

New Beginnings: Navajo Families Receive Keys to New Homes in Lupton, Nahata Dziil, and Houck



Jan 26, 2026

Last week, we celebrated major milestones in Lupton, Nahata Dziil, and Houck as families received the keys to their new homes.

In Lupton, Ariz., former Division of Community Development Director and current Council Delegate Arbin Mitchell joined community leaders to present keys to two new homeowners.

"Each of these key-turning ceremonies reminds us why this work matters," said Community Representative Linda Nelson. "As we handed over the keys, there were tears of joy, hugs, and so much gratitude – it was deeply emotional for everyone there. Seeing the joy and thankfulness of the new homeowners today is something I will carry with me for a long time."

The Navajo Nation has dedicated \$100 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to new housing construction through the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID). These funds have been distributed equally across council delegate regions to address housing needs throughout the Nation.

"These homes represent more than shelter – they represent a place to build a future," said President Buu Nygren. "Through the 1,000

Home Initiative, we are working to expend all ARPA funding through CHID, giving families the stability they deserve."

There are many steps that CHID, local chapters, and the administration have taken to ensure the maximum number of homes are delivered. The administration renegotiated contracts to secure cost-effective housing designs, while CHID staff completed homesite assessments, prepared sites for placement, and ensured readiness for utilities and waterline connections. At the chapter level, community members were selected based on need, and assistance was provided to ensure applications were complete.

"We get to see firsthand how transformative these homes are for our people," said Delegate Mitchell. "I recognize the critical importance of strategic investments in housing infrastructure for our families and for the economic development of our Nation."

This upcoming year, the Nygren Administration remains committed to advancing long-term stability, strengthening communities, and ensuring that Navajo families have access to safe, dignified housing for generations to come.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ur84tt2e>

Community Land Use Planning Activities & Updates

Kayenta Chapter Launches Community Land Use Planning Efforts by Latasha James.

On January 15, 2026, the Senior Planner led an engaging Community Land Use Planning orientation at the Kayenta Chapter. With a newly selected Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) in place, members demonstrated strong enthusiasm and a genuine eagerness to learn the core components of community land use planning. Five committee members were officially appointed to serve four-year terms and will play a key role in updating the Chapter's land use plan.

Throughout the orientation, committee members expressed a strong commitment to shaping the future of their community. Identified priorities include expanding the community cemetery with essential infrastructure improvements such as lighting and fencing, increasing housing and apartment development, and advancing a comprehensive zoning plan to support sustainable growth. This milestone marks an exciting step forward for the Kayenta Chapter as it strengthens its planning efforts and long-term vision.





Photo Credit: Blue Gap/Tachee Website

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

In January, the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) remained busy supporting day-to-day operations for all 110 chapters across the Navajo Nation. Alongside regular administrative support, ASC offices focused on several time-sensitive priorities to help chapters stay compliant and on track.

ASC staff worked closely with chapters to support W-2 processing and payroll reconciliation, ensuring staff received accurate tax documents in a timely manner. In addition, Unhealthy Food & Beverage Sales Tax (UFBST) Fund allocations for Fiscal Year 2026 became available, prompting a high volume of budget reviews. ASC offices assisted chapters by reviewing UFBST budgets for compliance with Navajo Nation laws and policies and helping ensure submissions were forwarded to the appropriate Navajo Nation programs for processing. These efforts help chapters receive funding needed to continue delivering vital services to their communities.

Throughout the month, ASC offices also hosted and participated in several meetings, trainings, and worksessions —both in person and virtually— covering topics such as financial record reviews, W-2 and IRS Form 941 reconciliation, emergency budgets, travel procedures, and UFT updates. These engagements reflect ASC's continued commitment to hands-on support, collaboration, and strengthening chapter operations across the Nation.



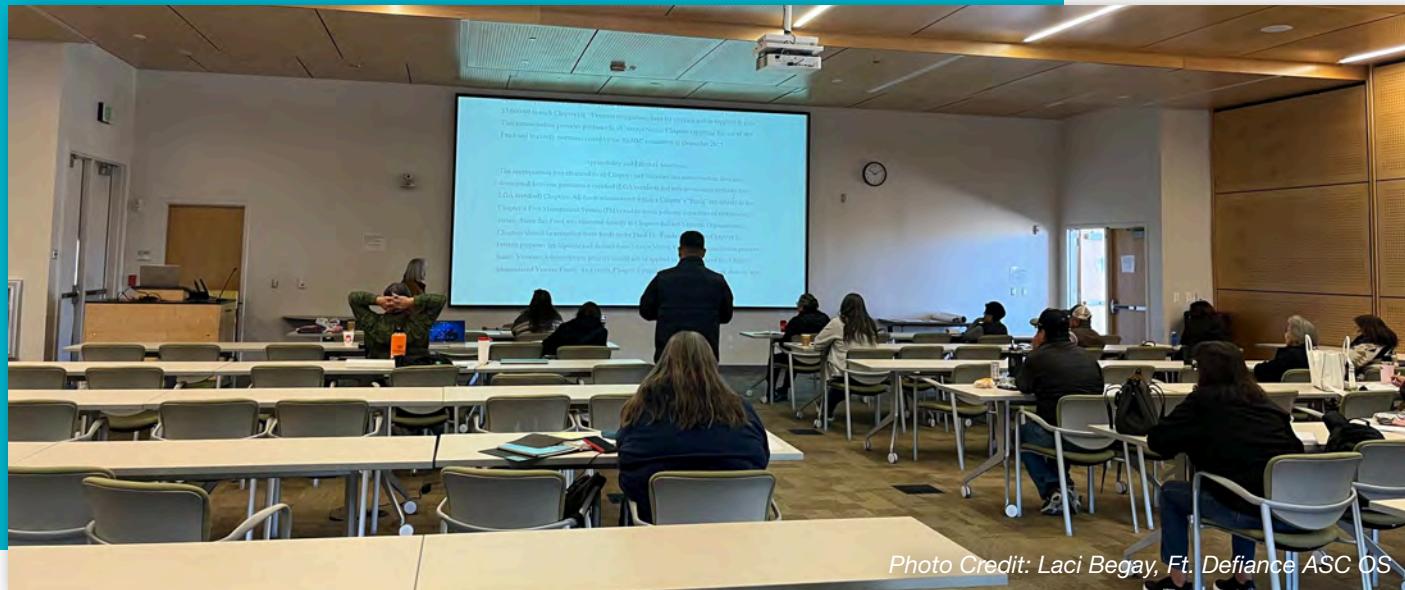


Photo Credit: Laci Begay, Ft. Defiance ASC OS

Fort Defiance ASC Hosts Chapter Meeting at UNM-Gallup

On January 30, 2026, the Fort Defiance Administrative Services Center (ASC) hosted an in-person meeting with its assigned chapters at the University of New Mexico-Gallup campus. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. and provided an opportunity for chapter officials and staff to receive timely updates, ask questions, and engage directly with ASC staff on key administrative topics.

The session was led by the Fort Defiance ASC team, including Patricia Begay, SPPS; Erica Christie-Sorrell, ASO; and Laci Begay, Office Specialist, who guided participants through a full agenda focused on compliance, policy updates, and operational support. Topics included an overview of the Unhealthy Food Tax and Veterans funding, the travel authorization process, and updates on the Public Employment Program (PEP) policy. Attendees also received an overview of Dayforce, helping chapters better understand personnel and payroll-related processes.

The meeting allowed time for discussion, questions, and updates, reinforcing collaboration between the Fort Defiance ASC and its chapters. By hosting this in-person gathering, the Fort Defiance ASC continued its commitment to providing accessible technical assistance and ensuring chapters have the information needed to manage programs effectively and remain compliant with Navajo Nation policies.



Story and Photos Submitted by: Laci Begay, Ft. Defiance ASC OS



ASC Crownpoint Hosts Navajo Nation Business Regulatory Training

On January 15, 2026, the Crownpoint Administrative Services Center (ASC) hosted an ASC Training Series session on Navajo Nation Business Regulatory requirements at the Iyanbito Chapter House in Iyanbito, New Mexico. The training brought together chapter officials and staff for an informative presentation led by the Navajo Nation Business Regulatory Department, covering key topics such as the Navajo Business Opportunity Act (NBOA), Navajo Corporation Code (NCC), and Weights & Measures, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The meeting also included ASC Crownpoint updates and information on upcoming trainings scheduled for January and February, including records management, First Aid/CPR and sexual harassment training, and chapter staff roles and responsibilities presented by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. The session supported continued collaboration and capacity-building efforts to help chapters remain compliant and informed on business regulatory requirements.



Crownpoint ASC and Counselor Chapter Policy Review

On January 8–9, the Crownpoint Administrative Services Center (ASC) met with Counselor Chapter at the Hispano Chamber of Commerce to review nine in-house chapter policies. The worksession supported ongoing efforts to strengthen internal procedures and ensure compliance. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Franklin Sage, Secretary/Treasurer; Samuel Sage, CSC; President Vicky Wellito; and Vice President Laura Lopez of Counselor Chapter.



Dilkon ASC and Indian Wells Chapter CLUPC Review

On January 29, 2026, the Dilkon Administrative Services Center (ASC) met with the Indian Wells Chapter at the chapter house for a joint working session focused on the Chapter's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and Community Land Use Planning (CLUPC) in preparation for FY2027. The discussion centered on aligning future infrastructure priorities with long-term community goals, including transportation, utility improvements, and economic development initiatives that support a sustainable future while respecting Diné cultural values. This collaborative review supports Indian Wells Chapter's ongoing efforts to strengthen planning, pursue land use recertification, and enhance quality of life for community members.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

WHIPPOORWILL CHAPTER COMMUNITY RENOVATIONS

Since the last quarter of 2025, the Whippoorwill Chapter has been hard at work remodeling 33 (and counting) homes across the Whippoorwill Springs area. The chapter has made arrangements for more homes to be renovated, as the harsh weather conditions are around the corner. The chapter's on-site construction workers continue to help the community by replacing old, worn flooring and roofing with new tiles and shingles. The workers would sometimes take apart and replace lumber that is weathered and decayed. They also repaint the homes, inside and out, and once they finish with the construction it looks as good as new. Since the start of the project, the chapter has been determined to help the elderly, veterans, and people with disabilities with house repairs. At the moment, the chapter is currently waiting for an approval to do new home construction and further renovations.

Housing Renovation 1



Housing Renovation 2



Housing Renovation 3



BODAWAY/GAP JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

January 2026



FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES WERE DISTRIBUTED IN COLLABORATION WITH LA PLANTA, NN PARKS & RECREATION, JONATHAN NEZ, AND BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER.



On January 9, 2026 a large semi-truck diesel pulled into the chapter parking lot early in the morning. The food was welcomed by the community, every item helps during the cold winter months.



Unloading pallets of fresh veggies & fruits.

WORKING TOGETHER

Pallets of fresh vegetables and fruits were put out for community members to take, and excess food was shared with nearby communities.



The parking lot was full of community members from the area.

STAYING WARM THIS WINTER

Many homes are staying warm this winter thanks to *Wood For Life*. They make fire wood more accessible for members of the Western Agency. The wood comes from the Coconino National Forest, seasoned and ready to use. Saving a lot of time and effort for members of the Navajo Nation. Especially, our elders and those who don't have access to a truck or chainsaw. It takes a lot to get a load of chizh. The program also offers education on how to use equipment. It is a part of the efforts to clean up the forests. This will have a positive impact on the health of the forest and its ability to prevent wildfires. Their work continues to make an impact for many families in need.



Families come together to help each other. Gathering firewood requires hard work. Every hand we can get to help makes a difference.



January 17, 2026 at the Bodaway/Gap Regular Chapter Meeting, Jonathan Nez speaking to community members.

Navajo Times • January 27 at 8:53 AM

Tommy Smith leaned forward at a long table inside the Bodaway-Gap Chapter House, gripping a thin sheet of paper with weathered hands as he read through final documents ... [See more](#)



Photo from Navajo Times

Eleven families received the keys to their new modular homes on January 17, 2026. It was a great day for the Bodaway community. The homes were purchased with American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Housing Assistance Project.

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

Bodaway/Gap Meetings & Events

February 2026

*Atsá Biyáázh
"The birth of eaglets"*

February 3	9 am	District III Grazing	Coalmine Chapter
February 4	1 pm	Echo Cliffs Veterans Mtg	Chapter House
February 5	10am-12pm	FRF Presentation	Chapter House
February 5	2pm-3pm	Eve's Place Community	Chapter House
February 7	10 am	Chapter PLANNING Mtg	Chapter House
February 10	9am	NDOT Mature Driving Presentation	Chapter House
February 11	10am-2pm	Food Demo & Fun Walk hosted by Navajo Special Diabetes Program	Chapter House
February 12	2pm - 6pm	Valentine Bazaar	Chapter House
February 14	9am	Planning & Zoning Regular Mtg	Chapter House
February 16	All Day	President's Day	OFFICE CLOSED
February 17	10 am	St. Mary's Food Bank	Parking Lot
February 19	10 am	Western Agency Grazing Committee Mtg	Birdsprings Chapter
February 19	All day	Jadi Habitiin Enterprise Lottery	Chapter House
February	10 am	Farm Board Meeting	TC BIA Office
February 21	10 AM	Chapter REGULAR Mtg	Chapter House
February 28	10 am	D3-3 Grazing Permittee Mtg	Chapter House

Last updated 1.22.2026

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 **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: @BODAWAYGAP**

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

WE EXTEND HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS WHO CONTINUE TO UPLIFT BODAWAY/GAP THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY AND SERVICE. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE. 

 **TOGETHER, WE RISE**

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

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjíí' Naaltsoos Bídadíjíehí

INDIGENOUS STUDENT LEADER DETERMINED TO RETURN TO NAVAJO NATION TO SUPPORT FAMILY, COMMUNITY AS A RADILOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

J.J. McCormack
Yavapai College
Jan 20, 2026

PRESCOTT – (Jan. 16, 2026) – Growing up in isolated corners of the Navajo Nation, Talia Yazzie made the most of her daily three-hour roundtrip school bus ride sleeping, studying, tutoring other riders, cultivating lifelong friendships, and even dreaming of becoming a school bus driver herself.

"I wanted to become a bus driver to help students from the reservation get home safely," Yazzie recalled of her long school commutes.

Later, in the aftermath of a devastating accident that injured her younger sister, Yazzie became a keen observer of her sister's healthcare journey – even investigating her sister's brain scans. It was then, already predisposed to helping people, that Yazzie became interested in radiologic technology. During a visit to Yavapai College with her mom, an aspiring public health professional, Yazzie investigated the college's radiology program, met its director, Tracy Rogers, and enrolled in pre-requisite classes. "It was like a whole new world opened up to me. The radiology program really caught my interest," she said.

Fast forward to 2026 and 19-year-old Yazzie is wrapping up her pre-radiology studies, living in the Prescott Campus residence halls for a second straight year, serving as Student Government Association president, working at the Del E. Webb Child Development Center, and volunteering at a local imaging clinic.

"Academically, school has been a real balancing act. And honestly, the stress of preparing for a competitive program is something I've never experienced before," Yazzie said. Nevertheless, her desire to return to the Navajo Reservation with a radiology degree and valuable skills is greater than her fear of failure.

"I see college as a true privilege. Growing up I watched my parents sacrifice so much for us, and being here makes me realize how fortunate I am. They've struggled financially, and this opportunity to pursue my Radiologic Technology degree feels like a way I can finally give back to them, to provide them with the things they deserve. That's a huge motivator for me."

Beyond my family, I'm also driven by a desire to help my community – my Navajo people. I've seen so much struggle, and the ability to diagnose diseases, monitor treatments, and offer minimally invasive care through radiologic technology feels like a

powerful way to make a difference. Knowing I can contribute to their well-being, as well as support my family, keeps me going, even when things get difficult."

Yazzie's grit and encouragement from her extended Navajo family help her curb bouts of homesickness.

"Being away from my family, especially my siblings, is tough. My younger siblings are like my own personal cheerleaders, always there to lift my spirits and push me forward, even when I doubt myself. I miss them a lot."

Also missed dearly, Yazzie's best friend, Chyrae, whom she met in elementary school on the school bus. The two girls lived miles apart and were only able to spend time together on the bus. "She's been a constant in my life ever since," Yazzie said of Chyrae.

And while long-distance friend and family relationships made Yazzie's first year in college a little lonely and uncomfortable, year two is anything but.

"I felt like it was harder last year, because I didn't find my people. I was more of an introvert. I wasn't familiar with the town and there were not many Native American people that I knew here so there was no one to talk to. This year I've met a lot more people and gained new friendships..."

Yazzie's college engagement is starting to rival her high school experience, which included running track and cross country, student government, cheerleading and the Native American Club.

Besides being elected president of the Yavapai College Student Government Association, Yazzie has served as a student marketer, joined college clubs and is a regularly student Bible study attendee.

"The college flung open its doors for me. I never expected to find myself on the student government team, diving headfirst into leadership roles and discovering capabilities I didn't know I possessed," she said.

As the oldest sibling, Yazzie is keen to inspire her younger sister – now healthy and thriving post-accident – and a younger brother. "I want to be a role model for my sister and brother. I want to show them that they are capable and that the future is full of possibilities."

Yazzie's approach to the YCSGA presidency, meanwhile, is influenced by her obvious compassion for others, whether children riding a school bus, family, or college classmates. "I want to be the



voice for other students, but I also want to help students in need as well," she said.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/5dmt2f4a>

Feds approve New Mexico's \$382M broadband plan

Landmark federal approval clears the way to connect more than 42,500 unserved homes and businesses

The federal government has approved New Mexico's \$382 million broadband infrastructure plan, aimed at delivering high-speed internet access to every corner of the state.

The funding will support 31 projects overseen by the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE). The grants will connect more than 42,500 unserved and underserved locations across 32 of New Mexico's 33 counties.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham called the approval a critical step toward universal connectivity.

OBAE reviewed 90 applications and selected projects involving 17 entities, including internet service providers, cooperatives, satellite companies, and Tribal communities. The Navajo Nation will receive \$111 million, the largest single award under the program.

Currently, about 90% of New Mexico has access to high-speed internet. That figure is expected to rise to 94% by the end of 2026 through existing projects, with the BEAD funding designed to close the remaining gap and reach 100% coverage.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/yzvu8at7>



Bulletin Board

NAPI Food Box Distributions Continue at Teesto Chapter

Jan 23, 2026

TEESTO, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation, in partnership with the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI), continues its commitment to food security by carrying out food box distributions at Teesto Chapter on Jan. 20, providing much-needed staples to local families during the winter season.

The distributions have helped support households as they face cold-weather conditions and increasing food costs. Each food box included a 50-pound bag of potatoes, a 20-pound bag of beans, a 25-pound bag of flour, and 10-pound bags of blue, yellow, and white cornmeal – essential items that reflect both nutritional needs and cultural significance.

Any remaining food boxes were distributed to registered voters within the chapter to ensure that available resources reached as many community members as possible.

Chapter staff and volunteers were recognized for their dedication, coordination, and tireless efforts in making the event a success. Community members expressed deep appreciation for the assistance, noting that the distributions provided both practical relief and reassurance that their needs are being seen and addressed.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/8by6at9>

NAPI FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS CONTINUE



THE NAVAJO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY PROVIDED ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO TEESTO CHAPTER MEMBERS

Governor's Office on Tribal Relations Celebrates State-Tribal Partnerships

Phoenix, AZ – Today, the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations welcomed Tribal, state, business, and community leaders to the Capitol to strengthen state-Tribal partnerships, promote dialogue, and honor the rich cultural heritage of the 22 Tribal Nations in Arizona.

Over 1,000 people attended the 31st Annual Indian Nations & Tribes Legislative Day, which began with a resource fair on the Capitol lawn that showcased over 70 exhibitors. The Dishchii'bikoh Apache crown dancers and Xuumar Akuuts, Quechan youth dancers shared cultural songs ahead of the joint protocol session hosted by the Arizona House of Representatives. The session opened with a traditional blessing from Robert Stone (Gila River Indian Community) and presentation of colors by the Tohono O'odham Women Veterans. The Fort Mojave Tribal Band performed the National Anthem, followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian

Highlights from the session included opening remarks from Speaker of the House Steve Montenegro and Senate President Warren Petersen. Chairman Timothy Williams of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and Chairman Verlon Jose of the Tohono O'odham Nation delivered keynote addresses that focused on the importance of mutually beneficial partnerships between the state and Tribes. The session concluded with a poetry reading by the newly appointed state poet laureate, Dr. Laura Tohe (Diné).

Following the session, attendees gathered on the Capitol lawn for a community luncheon with entertainment by Gertie and the T.O. Boyz waila band from the Tohono O'odham Nation. In the afternoon, a coalition of Tribal youth councils hosted a workshop for Native youth about civic engagement.

"Congratulations to the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations on 31 years of outstanding collaboration with Arizona's Tribal Nations," said Tonya Hamilton, the

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) Director and Tribal Liaison. "We are proud to sponsor this annual gathering that creates space to come together, listen, and recognize the strength, leadership, and lived experiences of American Indian communities. These contributions continue to shape our shared future and strengthen the well-being of communities across not only the Grand Canyon State, but across the nation."

"On behalf of all of us at Desert Diamond Casino – an enterprise of the Tohono O'odham Nation – we are proud to support this unique event once again," said Treena Parvello, Director of Government and Public Relations for the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise. "It is an opportunity for tribal leaders and Arizona officials to work together to improve the quality of life in our state and preserve it for future generations to enjoy."



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

Bulletin Board

Relatives with whom we share the land — black bears in Navajo Nation

Featured photograph courtesy of Deandra Jones

"Shí éí Deandra Jones yinishyé. Kint' ichii'nii nishlji; Áshjíhi bashishchiin, Bit'ahni dashicheii dóó dashinalí. Lók'aa'ch'égai déé' naashá. Shimá dóó shizhéé' éí Veronica dóó Davis Jones wolyé. Ákót'éego diné asdzáán nishlji."

This is how National Geographic Explorer, biologist and Navajo Nation member Deandra Jones introduces herself. It's part of the traditional Navajo introduction that honors family lineage and expresses the kinship ties that reveal who they are related to and where they come from. Her introduction translates to: "My name is Deandra Jones. I am of the Red House People, born for the Salt People. My maternal and paternal grandparents are of the Folded Arms Clan, or Under His Cover Clan. I am from Lukachukai, Arizona. My parents are Veronica and Davis Jones. That's who I am as a Navajo woman."

Her grandparents' clan – Under His Cover – is connected to traditional Navajo clan lineages guided by teachings of healing, protection, and leadership. These values are embodied by the black bear.

"In my culture, black bears are our protectors and seen as more than just animals," Jones said. "They represent knowledge, strength and healing ... it's why they hold such an important place in our prayers and ceremonies."

Perhaps it was this deep lineage and cultural connection that led her to their conservation, a calling she continues to understand through her work.

Studying black bears on the Navajo Nation – a territory that spans over 27,000 square miles across parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah – was a subject ripe for research. Despite black bears' reverence within the culture many questions remain. Some are straightforward: How many black bears reside within the Navajo Nation? Others, far more complex: With black bear habitats shrinking due to threats like climate change, how can communities encourage positive interactions between humans and bears as they live closer together? Jones' five-year project is investigating these and more, with support from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (NNDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the National Geographic Society.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4ry5Hpe>



Yee Ha'ólníi Doo Community Centers Become Lifeline Across Navajo Nation

by Carol A. Clark on February 2, 2026 - 12:15 pm

Yee Ha'ólníi Doo News:

Roberta Roberts knew the talent was there. She just needed to figure out how to bring it out.

When the Tooh Haltsooi Community Center opened its doors in Sheep Springs, New Mexico, in January 2023, Roberts and her team had a plan. They would offer workshops in culture and tradition, food sovereignty, youth leadership and small business development. What she didn't expect was how much the community itself would shape what those workshops became.

Roberts, the director for the Tooh Haltsooi Community Center, said the knowledge and skills already existed in the community.

"The knowledge and the skill sets are here, but to share that and to teach that was something that



lacked support," she said. "So we began to let them know that we'd like to have them share their entrepreneurship journey with the people."

The center held its first workshop on sand painting, a local art that had begun fading from daily life. Tó Haltsooi, the Diné name for Sheep Springs, is known for the practice, and Roberts wanted to spotlight what made the area distinct.

"It felt good to be home. The talent has always been here. The people have always been creative and resilient," she said. "How do we showcase that? That was my challenge here at the center."

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

Quote of the Month
Saad Baa Nitsáhakeesigíí



Comic of the Month
Baa Dlohasinigíí Naashch'aą'



Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

Exploring New Frontiers With the Quarterly Workforce Indicators

Industry-level Detail Provides New Insights on the Growing Space Economy

January 13, 2026

Written by: David Wasser

The "space economy" continues to soar and younger workers are fueling the industry's upward trajectory.

The extraterrestrial industry accounted for \$142.5 billion (0.5%) of U.S. GDP in 2023, combining activities from the Manufacturing, Transportation, and Information sectors, including Satellite Telecommunications and Guided Missile and Space Vehicle Manufacturing.

The U.S. Census Bureau released today the first ever Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) at the national industry level. These data will allow users to view and download economic indicators such as employment, job creation, earnings and other measures of employment flows for six-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

This level of detail opens new paths for analyzing parts of the economy that cross industry groups and provides unprecedented detail on the inner workings of our economy. The powerful new data enable us to boldly go where no one has gone before when examining this workforce of the future.

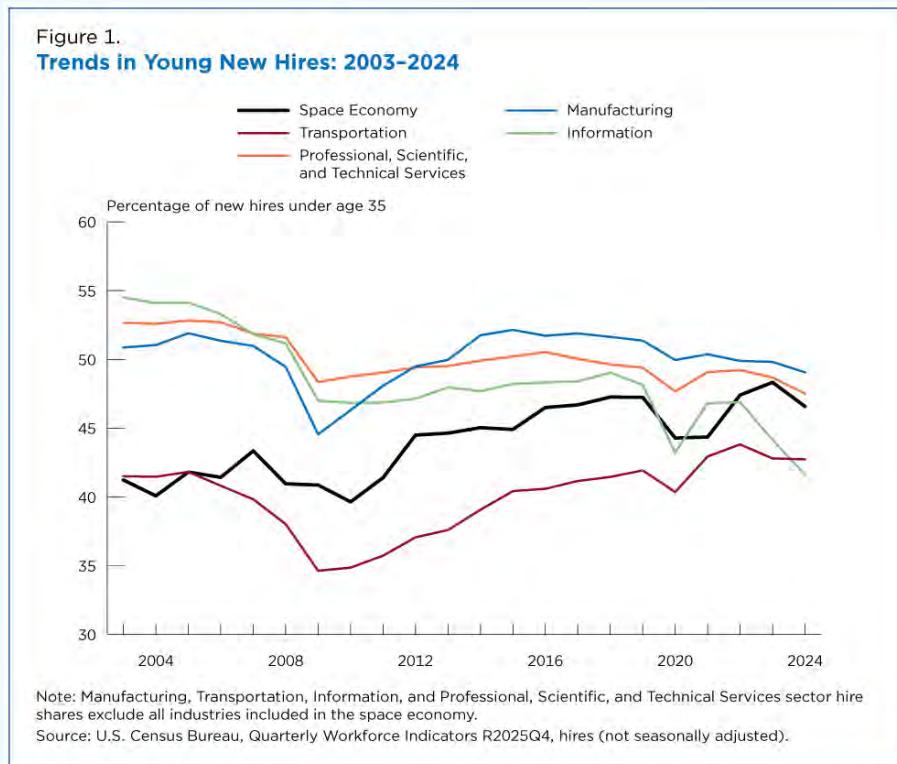
New Hires in the Space Economy Are Increasingly Younger

In 2024, nearly one-half of all new hires in the Space Economy cluster were under the age of 35. This share, while down relative to the previous year, remained part of an upward trend in the hiring of young talent for the space workforce (Figure 1).

The prevalence of these young workers is on par with that in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector, a distinct part of the economy employing similar workers.

Over the past decade, growth in the share of young new hires in the space economy (3%) far exceeded that of the nonspace components of the Manufacturing (-5%) and Information sectors (-13%). They are also consistently younger than new hires in the nonspace industries within the Transportation sector.

The growth among young workers in space fields also corresponded with an increase in worldwide commercial space activity in recent years. Revenue from private sector space activity in 2023 surpassed \$445 billion, 5% higher than in 2022.



More Young Workers Are Employed in Most Areas of the Space Economy

The new detailed QWI data allow for industry-level tabulations, including for subgroups, a level of specificity not previously possible with this dataset.

Granular information on workforce indicators empowers policymakers and business leaders to more deeply understand the dynamics of highly specialized labor markets. For example, we now know that the share of workers under the age of 35 has increased over the last 10 years in five of the seven industries that make up the space economy.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2026/01/space-economy.html>

Revolutionizing Economic Measurement at the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies: Pioneering Research on Firm Dynamics, Employment Flows and Transformative Statistical Products

Written by:

Ron Jarmin, Deputy Director

I recently had the privilege of speaking at conferences honoring two economists who've made huge contributions to the profession and, most importantly for this blog, to the U.S. Census Bureau. Mark Roberts of Penn State University and John Haltiwanger of the University of Maryland and their colleagues used Census Bureau data to change how economists and policymakers view the economy and how the Census Bureau measures it. Beyond their scientific contributions, both Mark and John have served the Census Bureau in variety of roles.

A Turning Point in Economic Research

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES) became an epicenter for groundbreaking research that would reshape how economists understand business and labor market dynamics. Mark and John, as visiting researchers, played central roles in this transformation. Their influential work along with collaborators continues to inform economic thought and policy, catalyze countless follow-on studies in the U.S. and abroad, and has been referenced in Nobel Prize citations.

[Click here to continue.](#)

Census Bureau Updates OnTheMap Tool With 2023 Employment Data

The U.S. Census Bureau has updated the [Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics \(LEHD\) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics \(LODES\)](#) and the OnTheMap application to include:

- 2023 employment data.
- Backfilled data for Mississippi from 2019 to 2022.
- Updated geography to the 2024 TIGER/Line vintage.

[OnTheMap](#) is an online mapping tool that shows where people live and work. It was developed through a unique partnership between [the Census Bureau and its Local Employment Dynamics \(LED\) partner states](#).

January 20, 2026

Volume 26 Issue 1

2026 Product and Event Calendar

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product scheduled for release in 2025.

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

2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-year Prerelease Webinar

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM EST – 2:00 PM EST

The U.S. Census Bureau is scheduled to hold a prerelease webinar about the 2020-2024 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates set to be publicly released January 29, 2026. The webinar will explain how to access data and resources from the ACS, and provide tips for comparing geographies and statistics over time.

Essential Skills for Finding ACS Data on data.census.gov

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM EST – 3:00 PM EST

Join us for an introductory webinar designed to help you navigate and access American Community Survey data through the Census Bureau's primary data platform, data.census.gov. This session will equip you with practical techniques for finding the statistics you need, when you need them.



Upcoming Releases

[Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for States, Counties and School Districts](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau will release new data on small area income and poverty estimates for states, counties and school districts. The new data come from the [2024 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#) (SAIPE), which provides the only up-to-date, single-year income and poverty statistics for the nation's 3,143 counties and 13,126 school districts. (**Scheduled for release Jan. 27.**)

[2025 Population Estimates, Components of Change and Voting-Age Population for the Nation, States and Puerto Rico Census](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau will release July 1, 2025, estimates of total population and voting-age population for the nation, states and Puerto Rico, as well as corresponding annual estimates and components of change since the 2020 Census. (**Scheduled for release Jan. 27.**)

[The Stories Behind Census Bureau Numbers in 2025](#)

From Families and Housing to Business and Income, Census Data Show a Changing Nation

An aging nation. A post-pandemic rebound for the entertainment industry. Young adults delayed traditional milestones. Homebuyers faced higher mortgage payments. Childlessness rose— except among older women. Only Hispanic households experienced significant increase in median income.

These were just a few of the changes our nation experienced, according to U.S. Census Bureau data and research released in 2025. Here we recap some key trends and findings by topic through a selection of America Counts stories published this year. [Click here to explore!](#)

[Exploring New Frontiers With the Quarterly Workforce Indicators](#)

Industry-level Detail Provides New Insights on the Growing Space Economy

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the first ever [Quarterly Workforce Indicators \(QWI\)](#) at the national industry level. These data will allow users to view and download economic indicators such as employment, job creation, earnings and other measures of employment flows for six-digit North American Industry Classification System ([NAICS](#)) codes.

This level of detail opens new paths for analyzing parts of the economy that cross industry groups and provides unprecedented detail on the inner workings of our economy. The powerful new data enable us to boldly go where no one has gone before when examining this workforce of the future.

[2030 Census Planning is Underway](#)

The Census Bureau plans to build on the experiences of the 2020 Census and identify further, potential operational updates to develop the 2030 Census design. Planning for the 2030 Census is now underway and includes conducting research and testing to inform the selection of the 2030 Census operational design.

This design will have to address multiple factors, including a constrained fiscal environment, rapidly changing use of technology, distrust in government, declining response rates, an increasingly diverse population, informal, complex living arrangements, and a mobile population.

To meet this goal, we are focused on five areas of research – which we call Enhancement Areas – to help us build our operational design: data collection, group quarters enumeration, integrating data collection and processing in real time, streamlining operational infrastructure, and continuous data collection and aggregation.

[Click here](#) to learn more about each of these Enhancement Areas as well as our preliminary timeline for planning the 2030 Census.





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



Yasnilt'ees 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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