

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníígíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Atsá Biyáázh

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## Did You Know...

*Nít béé hoziníshii...*

**One of the newest members of the Blue Angels is from the Navajo Nation!**

Congratulations to YN2 Kristyn Begay, who earned her prestigious Blue Angels Crest after months of intense training and dedication.

Her achievement represents hard work, excellence, and proud representation of her community on a national stage.



## Events:

*T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah*

**February: Atsá Biyáázh - Eaglets Hatching**

February 2: Groundhog Day

February 6: Wear Red Day (Womens' Heart Awareness)

February 8: Super Bowl Sunday

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 16: Presidents' Day

**March: Wóózhch'íid - Eaglets' first cry**

March 8: Daylight Saving Time starts

March 8: International Women's Day

March 14: Pi Day

March 17: Saint Patrick's Day

March 20: Spring Equinox

## Navajo Nation Enacts Capital Development Financing Fund



On February 27, 2026, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed into law Resolution CJA-05-26, marking a transformative step forward in how the Navajo Nation funds and builds critical infrastructure for its people.

The legislation establishes the Capital Development Financing Act and creates the Capital Development Financing Fund, a statutory trust fund designed to leverage existing resources to finance large-scale, long-term capital projects across the Nation.

### Putting Navajo Dollars to Work

The Act retains approximately \$166.7 million in the Revenue Replacement Reserve (RRR) to continue supporting legislatively approved Delegate Region Project Plans. At the same time, approximately \$521 million from the RRR will be deposited into the newly established Capital Development Financing Fund as principal to be strategically invested.

President Nygren emphasized that this approach allows the Nation to "make its

money work hard for us," ensuring prudent management, accountability, and long-term vision while combating poverty and improving quality of life.

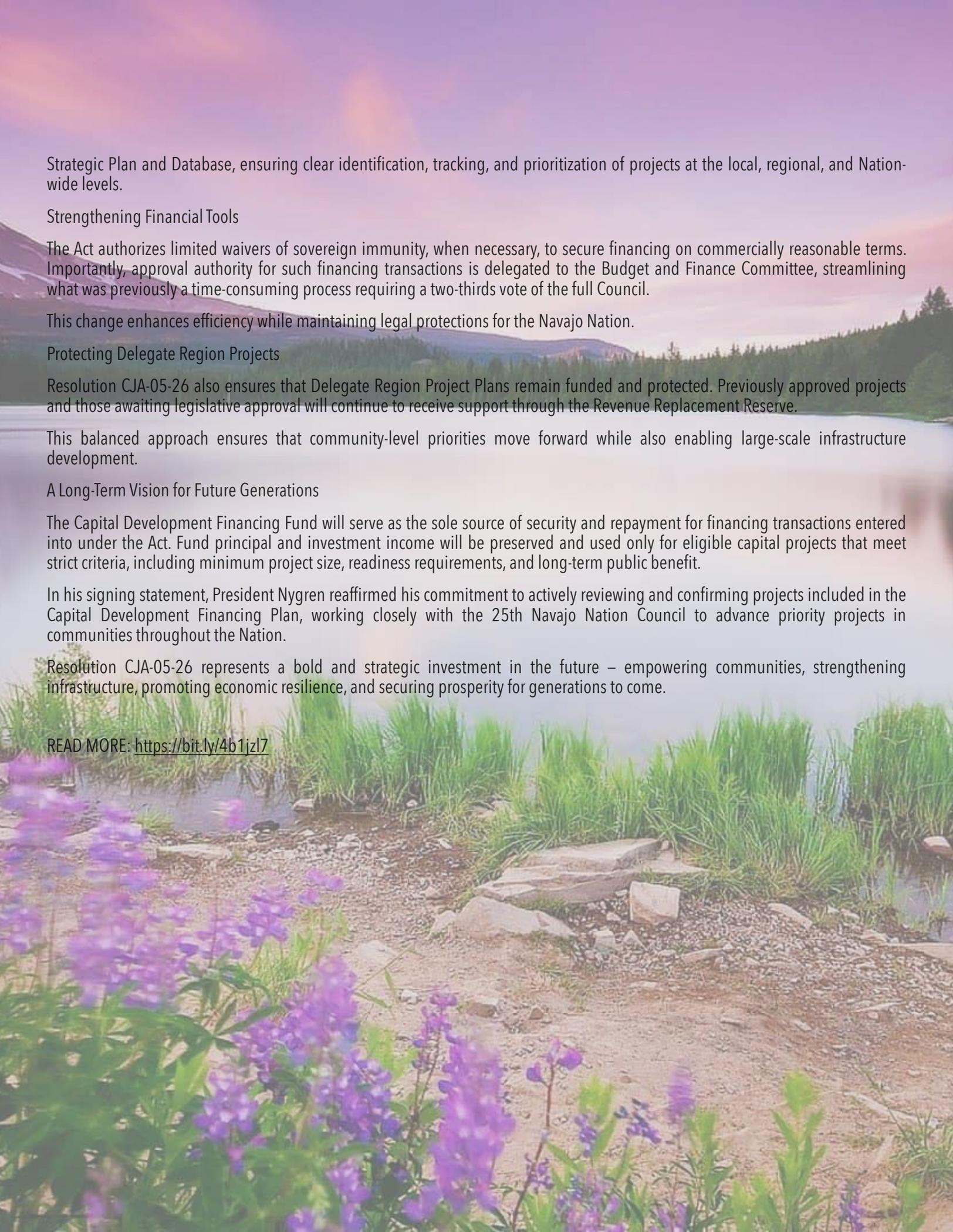
### Major Infrastructure Investments Ahead

One of the first major priorities under the new Fund is broadband infrastructure. The Nation is paving the way toward a potential half-billion-dollar broadband initiative aimed at delivering fast, reliable internet to every Chapter, home, and phone across Navajo Nation.

Beyond broadband, the Fund will help address multimillion-dollar funding needs and shortfalls in:

- Transportation and road projects
- Water and wastewater systems
- Energy and utility infrastructure
- Affordable housing development
- Government and public safety facilities
- Chapter-level capital improvements

These projects will be guided by a comprehensive Capital Development



Strategic Plan and Database, ensuring clear identification, tracking, and prioritization of projects at the local, regional, and Nation-wide levels.

### Strengthening Financial Tools

The Act authorizes limited waivers of sovereign immunity, when necessary, to secure financing on commercially reasonable terms. Importantly, approval authority for such financing transactions is delegated to the Budget and Finance Committee, streamlining what was previously a time-consuming process requiring a two-thirds vote of the full Council.

This change enhances efficiency while maintaining legal protections for the Navajo Nation.

### Protecting Delegate Region Projects

Resolution CJA-05-26 also ensures that Delegate Region Project Plans remain funded and protected. Previously approved projects and those awaiting legislative approval will continue to receive support through the Revenue Replacement Reserve.

This balanced approach ensures that community-level priorities move forward while also enabling large-scale infrastructure development.

### A Long-Term Vision for Future Generations

The Capital Development Financing Fund will serve as the sole source of security and repayment for financing transactions entered into under the Act. Fund principal and investment income will be preserved and used only for eligible capital projects that meet strict criteria, including minimum project size, readiness requirements, and long-term public benefit.

In his signing statement, President Nygren reaffirmed his commitment to actively reviewing and confirming projects included in the Capital Development Financing Plan, working closely with the 25th Navajo Nation Council to advance priority projects in communities throughout the Nation.

Resolution CJA-05-26 represents a bold and strategic investment in the future – empowering communities, strengthening infrastructure, promoting economic resilience, and securing prosperity for generations to come.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4b1jz17>

# Community Housing Development Progress Update

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## Overall Project Progress

The housing initiative continues to move forward with strong delivery results.

- 191 of 200 homes delivered under Work Orders #1 and #3 combined
- Major construction milestones reached across multiple agencies
- Utility coordination and compliance processes advancing in parallel

This represents substantial progress toward meeting both operational and ARPA deadlines.

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## Work Order #3 – 150 Manufactured Homes

Status: 96% Delivered

- 144 homes delivered
- 125 key turnovers completed
- Exterior and interior work substantially complete
- Northern Agency: Complete
- Eastern & Fort Defiance Agencies: Nearly complete

This work order is in its final stages, with only minor closeout activities remaining in select locations.

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## Work Order #1 – 50 Modular Homes

Status: 94% Delivered

- 47 homes delivered
- 40 interiors complete
- 12 turnovers finalized

Progress has been steady; however, final turnover numbers are impacted by delays in 40% payment processing, which is required for MCO release and final ownership documentation.

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## Work Order #5 – 138 Modular Homes

Executed: November 19, 2025

- No payments issued to date
- 40+ units produced
- 20 homes delivered to align with 2026 ARPA deadline

Production is underway, but financial processing will be critical to maintaining delivery momentum.

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## Work Order #4 – 80 Units

- Production halted due to factory fire in Snowflake, AZ
- 18 units completed
- Units currently stored in LeChee, AZ

A recovery plan will be necessary to address manufacturing disruption and avoid long-term schedule impact.

# Community Housing Development Progress Update Cont.

## Utilities & Infrastructure Progress

### Utility Assessments

- 100% complete for Work Orders #1 and #3
- 50% complete for Work Order #5

### Project Facility Layouts (PFLs)

- 200 PFLs completed and submitted to NTUA
- 150 for Work Order #3
- 50 for Work Order #1

### Water/Wastewater Coordination

- 26 Permission-to-Tap (PTT) packets completed for Work Order #3

### NTUA Coordination

- ARPA funds (expiring December 2026) aligned for full utility construction
- PFLs under 200 feet are being fast-tracked

Utility coordination remains on track but requires continued alignment between agencies to maintain construction timelines.

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## Legal & Titling Updates

A modified chain-of-title process has been implemented to ensure homes maintain tax-exempt gifted status through state Departments of Motor Vehicles.

This adjustment strengthens compliance and protects homeowners from unintended tax implications.

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## Major Risks & Constraints

- Contractor non-payment concerns
- Project Management services discontinued or ending
- Work Order #4 production halt
- RDC directive impacting utility coordination

These risks require proactive monitoring and administrative resolution to prevent schedule delays.

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## Pending Approvals

The following items are awaiting Office of the Controller approval (approximately two months pending):

- ADA ramps
- Parking pads
- Wood stoves

Timely approval will support safe occupancy and full project completion.

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## Summary Outlook

The housing program has achieved strong delivery performance, particularly under Work Orders #1 and #3. Infrastructure coordination and ARPA compliance remain priorities as Work Order #5 scales production. Addressing payment processing, approvals, and production disruptions will be critical to maintaining forward momentum into 2026.

# Community Housing Development Update



Completed in February: Tuba City resident gets bathroom upgrade



# DCD Staff Share the Love at Valentine's Breakfast

DCD staff came together on February 13, 2026, for a wonderful Valentine's Day Breakfast Potluck. The event was a great success, providing a relaxing morning for colleagues to gather, enjoy delicious food, and share company. It was a lovely way to celebrate and build community.



Join us for a morning of good food, good music, and great company!

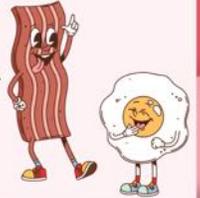
📅 Friday, February 13, 2026  
🕒 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
📍 DCD Main Office (Admin 2) - Large Conference Room

Bring a breakfast item to share—sweet or savory, homemade or store-bought. All contributions are welcome!

## Get Involved:

🎵 **Valentine's Playlist Theme:**  
Favorite love ballads or love songs  
Submit your song suggestion to help set the mood.

- Sign up for the potluck
- Submit a song for the playlist
- Visit the event website for details



[Potluck Sheet](#)

[Playlist Form](#)



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

## February Highlights

In January and February, 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.

A key activity for February was a two-day in-person staff meeting held on February 2-3, 2026, at the NDOT location in Tse Bonito, NM. Staff from all eight local offices attended to regroup, share updates, and reorientate on the department's goals and objectives. Additionally, the department has been actively working on the department's plan of operation and developing recommendations for the 2027 Budget Instructions Manual (BIM), specifically focusing on Appendices M and M-1. A final department-wide virtual review of the BIM recommendations is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd, as the department works to finalize the draft for submission to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) this week.

These efforts reflect ASC's continued commitment to hands-on support, collaboration, and strengthening chapter operations across the Nation.

# ASC Staff Meet In-Person for Department-Wide Training and Alignment

The Administrative Services Centers (ASC) department held a successful two-day in-person staff meeting on **February 2-3, 2026**, at the Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) facility in Tse Bonito, NM. The meeting brought together staff from all eight local offices to regroup, share updates, and reorientate on the department's goals and objectives.

The agenda, facilitated by Jaron Charley, was packed with professional development and key organizational updates. Highlights included a team-building exercise, introductions for new ASC staff members Erica Christie-Sorrell and Tisheena Loley, and a training session on Gmail formatting led by Tia Yazzie.





## ASC Staff Meet In-Person for Department-Wide Training and Alignment (Cont.)

The meeting also featured presentations from other Navajo Nation departments, including:

**Department of Personnel Management (DPM):**

Ramondo R. Clah provided updates on Dayforce.

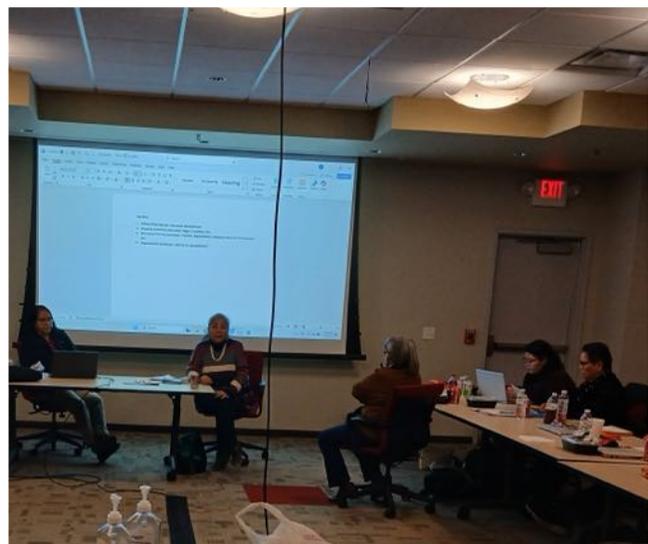
**Auditor General:** Jeanie Jones presented.

**Ethics and Rules:** Rodriguez Morris covered the Ethics in Government Law and Standards of Conduct for Elected Officials.

**FRF Office:** Lisa Jymm presented on the second day.

**NNDOJ- Chapter Unit** Assistant Attorney General: Rodgerick Begay provided updates on the Chapter Unit.

These engagements underscore the ASC's continued commitment to collaboration and strengthening department-wide operations.



# Ft. Defiance ASC Hosts Staff Meeting with Chapters



The Fort Defiance ASC Staff Meeting was set for Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 9:30 AM at the Oak Springs Chapter Meeting Hall. Patricia D. Begay, Erica Christie-Sorrell, and Laci Begay were there to welcome everyone and kick off the day.

The meeting was packed with key updates, including a presentation from Rodgerick Begay on the Department of Justice, and an overview of Day Force led by Ramondo Clah. Shawn Goodluck provided a Digital Cloud update.

After a lunch break, the afternoon focused on financial and administrative processes: Carrisa Wood gave an overview of the Procurement/Bid Opening Process, and Christine Sam presented the Overview of the Budget Process. After addressing other items, the comprehensive staff meeting was set to conclude and adjourn at 4:00 PM.



# Chapter Staff Gear Up with Vital Rural Addressing Training at Ganado

On February 24, 2026, the Ganado Chapter hosted a highly successful Rural Addressing Training session, bringing together staff, officials, and Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) members from a wide network of chapters.

The training, which kicked off at 10 a.m., saw strong participation from chapters including Whitecone, Indian Wells, Cornfield, Kin Dah Lichii, Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, Jeddito, Greasewood, NahataDziil, Steamboat, and Birdsprings. The collaborative event was focused on equipping attendees with the essential knowledge and skills needed to implement rural addressing initiatives in their own communities.

A key part of the program was a hands-on sign demonstration, which was greatly supported by dedicated volunteers from the Indian Wells PEP employees. These volunteers provided valuable, practical assistance, allowing participants to fully engage with the material.

The many photos captured during the event showcase the strong attendance and collaborative spirit as attendees learned and practiced the new addressing techniques, highlighting the community-wide commitment to improving this crucial service.



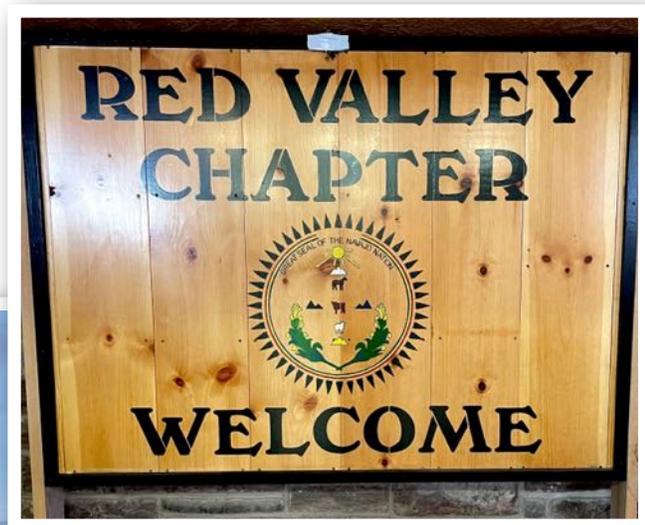
# Red Valley Works to Preserve Navajo Nation's Beauty with New Waste Program

In an initiative to curb illegal dumping on the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Council allocated funding to the community in 2025. The Red Valley Chapter House is currently leasing large trash bins to combat unlawful dumping within the Navajo Nation.

Although a site has been designated for the Transfer Station in Mitten Rock, New Mexico, it remains unfinished; however, it is expected to be operational in the near future. At present, only domestic waste (household trash) is permitted to be disposed of in the large trash bins located in the parking lot of the Red Valley Chapter House.

To discourage the illegal disposal of prohibited items, such as motor oil, tires, and animal remains items that are hazardous to the community, a sign has been installed near the large trash bins, with the hope that the community will comply with this request. The pickup schedule is managed by a limited number of personnel, and it is hoped that once the large trash bins are full, residents will transport their waste to Shiprock and other communities that have functional Transfer Stations. For now, the large trash bins are designated for use by the Red Valley community, as stated by Mr. Leonard Benally, the President of the Red Valley Chapter House. Mr. Benally expresses hope that these trash bins will help mitigate the extensive illegal dumping that is damaging the beauty of our Navajo Nation.

Written by Pamela J. Peters  
Red Valley Chapter House



# Bodaway/Gap February Highlights

## Stronger Together, Serving Our Community

This month, some of our highlights included collaborating with community partners and neighboring chapters to bring resources to those in need. As the weather begins to warm next month, the chapter has increased events focused on promoting physical fitness and overall health initiatives.

### A Powerful Day of Partnership and Generosity

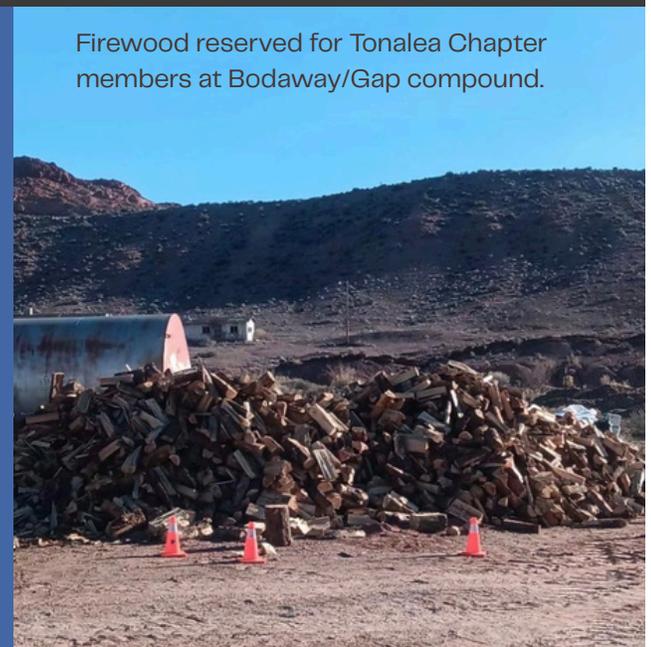
Navajo Parks & Recreation, President Jonathan Nez, and LA Planta joined forces with the Chapter for an incredible community food box giveaway. Nearly 300 boxes were distributed to Navajo tribal members, and the response was overwhelming—people were especially excited and grateful for the fresh fruits and vegetables. It was a vibrant day of teamwork, support, and community spirit.



February 6, 2026, Bodaway/Gap Staff and volunteers from NN Parks & Rec set up the distribution. Community members begin to line up an hour early.

## Winter Weather and Community Support Efforts

This February, winter weather settled across the Western Agency, bringing freezing temperatures along with much-needed moisture. As the demand for firewood increased, the Bodaway/Gap Chapter partnered with the Tonalea Chapter House to help meet community needs. With the support of our friends at Wood For Life, we received additional loads of seasoned Ponderosa pine—ready for immediate use—and were able to share resources with our neighboring chapter. Many families benefited from this collaborative effort, reflecting the strength and unity of our communities during the colder months.



Firewood reserved for Tonalea Chapter members at Bodaway/Gap compound.

# Bikes for Wellness: A Generous Donation to Our Community

Bodayay Staff recently met with Rygie from NavajoYES, who generously donated fifteen bikes through the Diné Bike Project—a program that gives bikes in exchange for a good deed. Based out of Beclabito, NM, this initiative is all about uplifting our people and promoting healthy living. As part of our growing wellness efforts, the Chapter is excited to announce upcoming community bike events later this year to encourage active lifestyles and family-friendly fun.

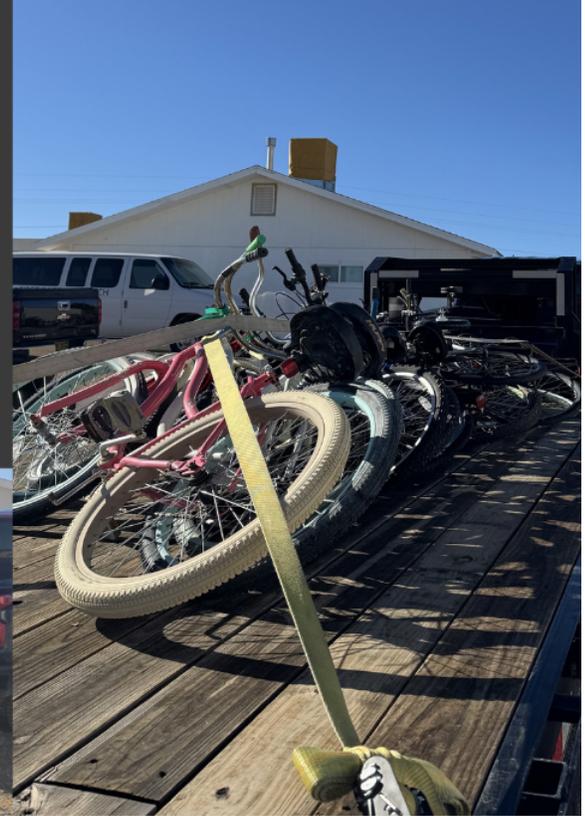
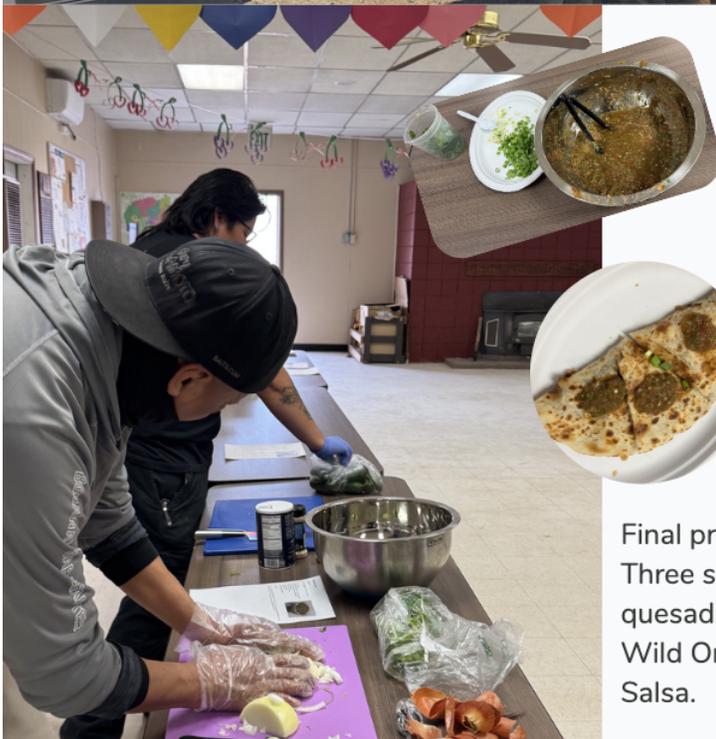


Photo courtesy of NavajoYes FB. L-R: Jordan, Rygie, Aaron & Chelsea

## Navajo Nation Special Diabetes

The Chapter hosted a food demo and a fun walk on February 11, 2026. An instructor from the special diabetes program led the cooking class. It was a good turn out with participants from the community.



Final product:  
Three sisters  
quesadilla with  
Wild Onion  
Salsa.



## Our Community is Cheering Loudly for a True Superstar

We are beyond excited to celebrate one of our brightest hometown talents — Layla Curtis, our very own 3A Player of the Year. The pride across Bodaway/Gap has been electric, with families, elders, and youth all rallying behind her incredible achievement. Layla's dedication, strength, and unstoppable drive have inspired our whole community, and the love and support she's received has been nothing short of amazing. She's shining on the court, and she's lifting all of us with her. Bodaway/Gap is standing tall and cheering even louder as she continues her remarkable journey.



# Chapter ESCROW Projects

ESCROW funds were created from long-standing Navajo-Hopi land dispute settlements and later released through the Navajo-Hopi Intergovernmental Compact. The Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office (NHLCO) now allocates these funds to Former Bennett Freeze Area Chapters, with certified Chapters—like Bodaway/Gap—receiving their distributions directly to support housing and community development projects.

## Fair and Transparent Selection Process

Recipients were chosen based on assessments completed in 2022 in partnership with Choice Humanitarian, using the KOBOToolbox app. The Navajo Hopi Land Commission's point-based application guided the scoring, with 221 homes assessed and the highest score reaching 301. This structured system ensured fairness, eliminated concerns of favoritism or nepotism, and supported transparent decision-making by the Chapter.

### RENOVATIONS

BEFORE



*after*



THANK YOU TO OUR ESCROW CREW: LESTER, RANDALL, JASON, RAYMOND AND DOMINICK

### Renovation Team Expands Progress in the Former Bennett Freeze Area

The Chapter's skilled renovation crew continues to make impressive strides throughout the Former Bennett Freeze area. With an experienced Lead Carpenter and a Certified Electrician driving the work, each project has been successful, meaningful, and deeply rewarding for our community. To keep this momentum going, the Chapter is actively pursuing additional funding to bring more crew members on board—accelerating progress and helping us complete all renovation projects even faster.

**Momentum is building, and we're excited for what's ahead.**

Looking Ahead: New Home Construction on the Horizon  
The Chapter's next big milestone—and the crew's newest challenge—is the construction of brand-new homes. With the Chapter providing home kits and hands-on support, our team is gearing up to help community members take the next step toward safe, modern housing.



# STAY CONNECTED WITH BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER

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



## MARCH 2026

**Wóózhch'íí**  
"Sound of baby eaglets crying"

March 3	10 am	District III Grazing	Cameron Chapter
March 4	1 pm	Echo Cliffs Veterans Mtg	Chapter House
March 5	2 pm	Headstart Parent Mtg	Chapter House
March 7	10 am	Chapter PLANNING Mtg	Chapter House
March 8	2am	Daylight Savings Time BEGINS	Chapter House
March 9	6pm-7pm	ZUMBA	Chapter House
March 12	2-6pm	Food Demo AND Fun Walk hosted by Navajo Special Diabetes Program	Chapter House
March 14	9am	Planning & Zoning Regular Mtg	Chapter House
March 17	10 am	St. Mary's Food Bank	Parking Lot
March 18	8am-4pm	TCRHCC Mobile Medical	Parking Lot
March 19	10 am	Farm Board Meeting	BIA Conference Rm
March 19	10 am	Western Agency Grazing Committee Mtg	Western Agency BIA
March 21	10 AM	Chapter REGULAR Mtg	Chapter House
March 26	All day	Jadi Habitiin Enterprise Lottery	Chapter House
March tba	10 am	D3-3 Grazing Permittee Mtg	Chapter House



Please note the dates are subject to change.

Last updated 2.23.2026



## CONTACT US



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### 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

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos B'idadiljehí

## NAVAJO NATION PUSHES FEDERAL PARTNERS TO ACCELERATE GALLUP INDIAN MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT



Navajo-Hopi Observer  
Feb 24, 2026

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The immediate replacement of the Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC) was identified as a top priority by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Navajo Department of Health (NDOH) Executive Director Sherylene Yazzie during a consultation meeting with Senior Advisor Mark Cruz and federal officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The meeting focused on accelerating progress for the long-delayed GIMC replacement project, enhancing coordination on planning and design efforts, and reviewing self-governance options that could provide the Navajo Nation greater flexibility in the development and operation of the facility.

President Nygren emphasized the Navajo Nation's clear and unified position on the future location of the facility, reaffirming that the Gamarco, N.M., site has been formally designated through Navajo Nation Council action and represents the most

viable, culturally appropriate, and logistically sound option for the new medical center.

"For far too long, our communities have waited while critical healthcare projects remained stuck in planning and bureaucracy," said President Buu Nygren. "The Navajo Nation is fully committed to this project and appreciates the continued support of Secretary Kennedy. We are focused on the future – clearing obstacles and ensuring that the largest healthcare facility in Indian Country is constructed on Navajo land."

Director Yazzie raised concerns about lengthy federal timelines for planning studies and contractor approvals, noting that delays of several months have significantly hindered progress. President Nygren proposed stronger coordination between federal and tribal contractors to accelerate planning efforts and prevent duplication of work already completed by the tribe, including demographic analyses, site planning, environmental assessments, and long-term service projections.

"All other tribal nations are moving forward, and it is time for the Navajo Nation to get the new Gallup Indian Medical Center under construction," said NDOH Executive Director Sherylene Yazzie. "We

deeply believe in the mission of Navajo Healing Navajo, and it will take us, as a sovereign nation, to do this for ourselves."

The discussion also addressed federal funding constraints and alternative pathways – including self-governance and joint-venture models – that other tribes have successfully used to advance healthcare infrastructure while maintaining operational support from the Indian Health Service. Navajo leaders highlighted that these options warrant serious consideration, especially as federally led replacement projects such as the Gallup Indian Medical Center have historically taken decades to complete.

"The Navajo Department of Health has developed a comprehensive plan for the Gamarco site that includes expanded behavioral health services, elder care, treatment and detox facilities, and workforce training opportunities to meet the long-term healthcare needs of the Navajo people," added President Nygren. "We are ready to move forward – and we now need our federal partners to meet us at that level and get this done."

HHS officials acknowledged the challenges raised during the consultation and emphasized a commitment to improved communication, coordination, and accountability moving forward.

"The Department of Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service are committed to strengthening healthcare across Indian Country," said HHS Senior Advisor Mark Cruz. "Secretary Kennedy has tasked us with identifying solutions, and we are actively working to move construction projects forward."

Mark Cruz serves as senior advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he advises Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on American Indian and Alaska Native health policy and federal-tribal relations. A citizen of the Klamath Tribes, Cruz works to elevate tribal priorities and strengthen coordination between tribal nations and HHS agencies, including the Indian Health Service.

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



## Meet azcentral's Student of the Week for Feb. 23-27,

Kimimila Beetso was honored as a finalist for NPR's Student Podcast Challenge in late 2025. Kimimila represented Arizona's best through this recognition featuring artistic and academic talent. She investigated an important part of Arizona's history and culture which, through her efforts, was shared nationally.

In her podcast, she interviews her grandmother, 80 year old Evelyn Roanhorse, on the tradition of making fry bread. The two discuss fry bread's cultural significance while also sharing the grim history behind the origins of this Navajo, or Diné, staple. The piece balances the interview, a natural conversation between granddaughter and grandmother, with the history behind the Diné people's forced relocation to the Bosque Redondo internment camp in the 1860s. Kimimila and her grandmother trace this history and acknowledge the complicated origins but valued symbol that fry bread holds today. Her piece aired on national radio in December on All Things Considered.

Nomination submitted by Mariah Driggs, teacher, Horizon Honors Schools.

For more information on Student of the Week, email [studentoftheweek@azcentral.com](mailto:studentoftheweek@azcentral.com).



# Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos B'rdadiiljeehi'

## Crownpoint Food Distribution Reaches 400 Households

Jan 23, 2026

Adrianna Carviso, OS Crownpoint ASO

Crownpoint, NM – Registered voters, community members, families, and guests in Crownpoint received potatoes, flour, beans, yellow cornmeal, and blue cornmeal during the recent food distribution. All 400 bags were distributed to those most in need. We hope the recipients enjoy preparing a variety of meals with these staple food items.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Crownpoint Chapter for hosting and supporting this effort. Special thanks to CSC Aaron, AMS Felicia, Chapter President Rita, Chapter Operator AJ, volunteers Noah, Cameron, Ornile, and Layla, and OPVP Eastern Agency Representative Sharlene for their assistance.

Hosting a distribution of this scale requires coordination and teamwork. Tasks included unloading supplies with heavy equipment, setting up traffic control cones, organizing sign-in sheets, verifying names, loading food bags—each weighing over 20 pounds—into vehicles, and notifying the community in advance. The success of this event reflects the time, effort, and commitment of everyone involved.



## The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department was honored to host the 39th annual American Indian Day at the Roundhouse.



Santa Fe, New Mexico  
February 6, 2026

American Indian Day 2026

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, tribal leadership, state leadership and community members gathered in the rotunda of the New Mexico State Capitol

with featured guest speakers, songs and dances.

This day was established to honor and celebrate the contributions of Native American communities every first Friday of February.

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated. See you next year!

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



# Bulletin Board

## NAAD Attends National Rural Addressing Meeting

NAAD staff participated in a panel discussion on rural addressing challenges at the Keck Center in Washington, D.C. The discussion focused on defining the problem and presenting case studies related to rural addressing in contemporary rural America, specifically in West Virginia and the Navajo Nation. US Census partners, members of the Geographical and Geospatial Sciences Committee within the National Association of Sciences (NAS), promoted the trip. The DCD is in partnership with the US Census to capture address points that can be utilized for the decennial census count. Centerline development (roads and streets) can be part of establishing standard street addresses and is crucial information for national elections and redistricting tasks. Work conducted with ARPA funding brings in other partners and collaborators at the national level.



## Port of San Diego Announces Artist Selection for Imperial Beach Splash Pad

February 19, 2026  
ExperiencesContact: Kelley Lieberman, 619.643.0154,  
klieberman@portofsandiego.org

The Port of San Diego has selected a Southern California-based artist, Nicole Marie Pete, to create artwork as part of the new splash pad that will be installed at Portwood Pier Plaza in Imperial Beach.

In October 2025, the Port issued a call for professional artists in San Diego, Imperial, Orange and Riverside Counties to develop artwork to visually enhance a mechanical enclosure next to future splash pad. A selection panel, including members of the Imperial Beach Arts Committee and the Port's Arts Culture & Design Committee, evaluated nearly 50 applications and interviewed top candidates before recommending three qualified artists/artist teams to be voted upon by the Port's Arts Culture & Design Committee.

Pete's proposal includes the development of two murals - one for each side of the mechanical enclosure - that help celebrate Imperial Beach's cultural heritage, environmental significance, and community traditions through play, imagination, education and connection.

Pete will receive up to \$20,000 to develop her concept and produce artwork files that will be installed on the splash pad's mechanical enclosure. The Port is supporting all installation costs.

The Port and the City of Imperial Beach have been making a series of improvements to the Imperial Beach Pier and the adjacent Portwood Pier Plaza to activate and beautify it. In April 2024, the Board of Port Commissioners approved adding a new project, the Splash Pad at Portwood Pier Plaza. Construction for the splash pad is anticipated to begin in early March and be completed by December 2026.



### About Nicole Marie Pete

Nicole Marie Pete is a Southern California-based digital artist whose work explores Native American identity through a contemporary lens. A full-blooded Navajo (Diné) and enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), Nicole's heritage plays a central role in both the content and purpose of her art. Her maternal clan is Bitter Water (Todich'íí'nii), and she was born for the Big Water clan (Tot'soh'nii). Inspired at an early age by her grandfather, Nicole has illustrated children's books aimed at preserving the Navajo language, contributed to Native-focused publications, and created cover art for books celebrating Indigenous perspectives. Her work balances reverence for her ancestry with a desire to engage and educate new audiences through digital mediums.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4r1KSli>

## PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Positions

*Naanish aa 'idaat'ehigíí*

### Administrative Services Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	\$31,257.36	3/5/2026
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Nenahnezad, NM	\$44,098.56	3/5/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Nageezi, NM	\$31,257.36	3/5/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Becenti, NM	\$31,257.36	3/5/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rock Springs, NM	\$31,257.36	3/6/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/6/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Cameron, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/9/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/10/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Huerfano, NM	\$31,257.36	3/12/2026
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Pueblo Pintado, NM	\$44,098.56	3/5/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Pueblo Pintado, NM	\$31,257.36	3/12/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Hardrock, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/12/2026
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$44,098.56	3/16/2026

### Community Housing & Infrastructure Department / Housing Improve Program

Program Manager I (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$66,189.60	2/27/2026
Eligibility Technician (S)	Crownpoint, NM	\$31,257.36	3/2/2026

### Community Housing & Infrastructure Department / Community Development Block Grant Program

Program Supervisor II (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$56,000.16	3/5/2026
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### Solid Waste Management Department

Office Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/2/2026
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(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

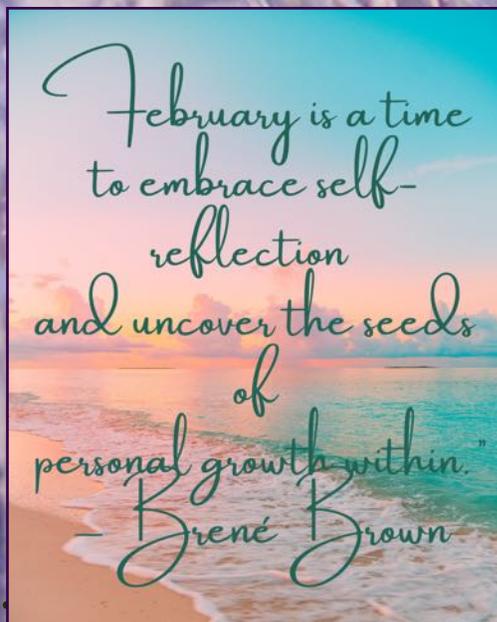
Closing Dates may change

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'



## Fun Facts: Valentine's Day - February 14



### The Day of Love – A History

- In A.D. 496, Pope Gelasius I declared February 14 as Valentine's Day.
- Esther Howland of Massachusetts is given credit for selling the first mass-produced Valentine's Day cards in the 1840s.



What do blueberries say on Valentine's Day?  
I love you berry much!



### Walking Down the Aisle

- In 2010, the median age for a first marriage in the United States was about 29 years old for men and about 27 years old for women.
- In 2024, the median age at which men in the United States first got married was about 31 years old. In 2024, the median age at which women in the United States first got married was about 29 years old.

Of people aged 15 and older in the United States...

- 50 out of 100 (50%) had been married once
- About 12 out of 100 (12%) had been married twice
- About 3 out of 100 (3%) had been married three or more times
- Approximately 35 out of 100 (35%) never have been married

### Sugar, Sugar (of the Chocolate Variety)

In 2023, California and Pennsylvania had the most chocolate makers per state.

California:  
**122**



Pennsylvania:  
**121**

### Cities and Towns With the Loveliest Names\*



- Loveland, Colorado (Population - 81,102)
- Romeoville, Illinois (Population - 41,177)
- Love Valley, North Carolina (Population - 175)
- Valentine, Texas (Population - 63)

\*Population numbers are from 2024

### Finding Gifts for Your Valentine

In the United States in 2023, there were about...

- 20,000 jewelry stores
- 12,000 flower shops
- 3,000 candy and nut stores
- 1,000 chocolate makers
- 600 nonchocolate candy makers



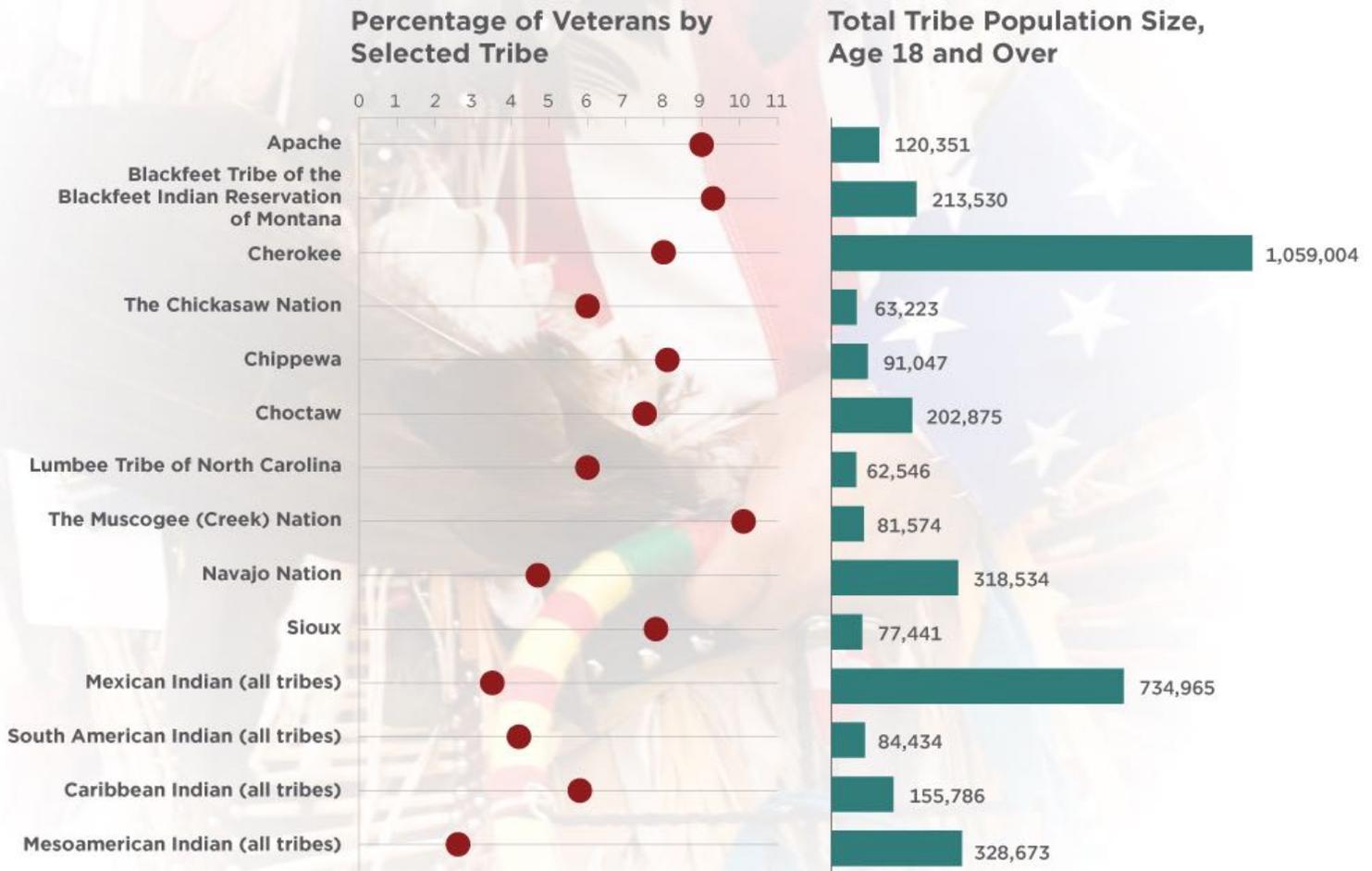
### Thanks a Bunch

- About \$259 million: The value of imports of all bouquet cut flowers in February 2025.
- About \$147 million: The value of imports of fresh cut roses and buds, specifically, in February 2025.

Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 County Business Patterns, International Trade Statistics, 2024 American Community Survey and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

# Honoring Veterans Across Tribal Nations

In 2024, 6.3 Percent of American Indian and Alaska Native Individuals Aged 18+ Were Veterans



Note: All groups displayed above are "alone or in combination."



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

Source: 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. More information on confidentiality protection, methodology, sampling and nonsampling error, and definitions is available at [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/)



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!

# Community-Based Land Use Planning (CLUPC) Orientation



February 23, 2026 | 9:00 AM MST | Nahata Dziil Commission Governance

The Community Based Land Use Planning (CLUPC) Orientation was held on February 23, 2026, at the Nahata Dziil Commission Governance. The session was conducted per Delegate Mitchell's Chapter request and focused on strengthening chapter-level land use planning efforts

The meeting opened with an invocation, roll call, and welcome, establishing quorum and acknowledging participating chapters. The primary objective of the orientation was to clarify the purpose, structure, and expected outcomes of Community Land Use Planning (CLUP) and to explain how local planning efforts align with the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Emphasis was placed on how proper land use planning supports project prioritization, funding eligibility, and long-term community development goals.

Each participating chapter provided updates regarding their CLUP or Planning & Zoning (P&Z) status. Chapters represented included Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, Nahata Dziil, Houck, Tsi Si Ani, and other visiting chapters. Discussions highlighted the varying stages of plan development, certification status, and implementation challenges.

L. James of NNDCCD delivered the formal orientation. The presentation covered the fundamentals of CLUPC formation and responsibilities, the land use planning process, coordination with chapter officials, and compliance expectations. The session concluded with a question-and-answer period, allowing participants to seek clarification and discuss next steps, followed by closing remarks.





# TRASH SAFETY TIPS

Keep Our Community Clean & Safe

## Safe Disposal Practices

- Always bag you 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](mailto:ltullie@nndcd.org)  
[\(505\) 318 - 6860](tel:(505)318-6860)



## Church Rock Chapter CLUP Committee Collaborates with Solid Waste Management Department

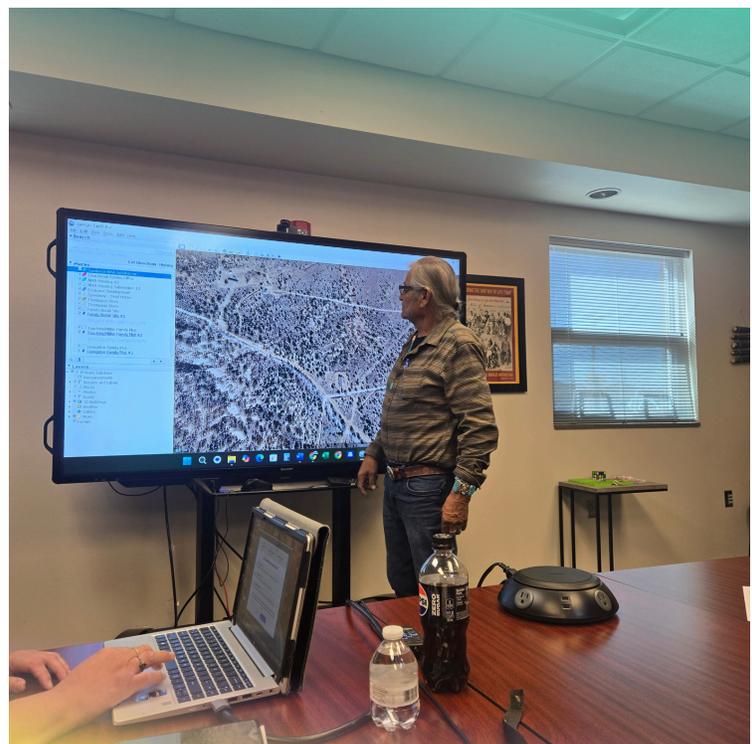
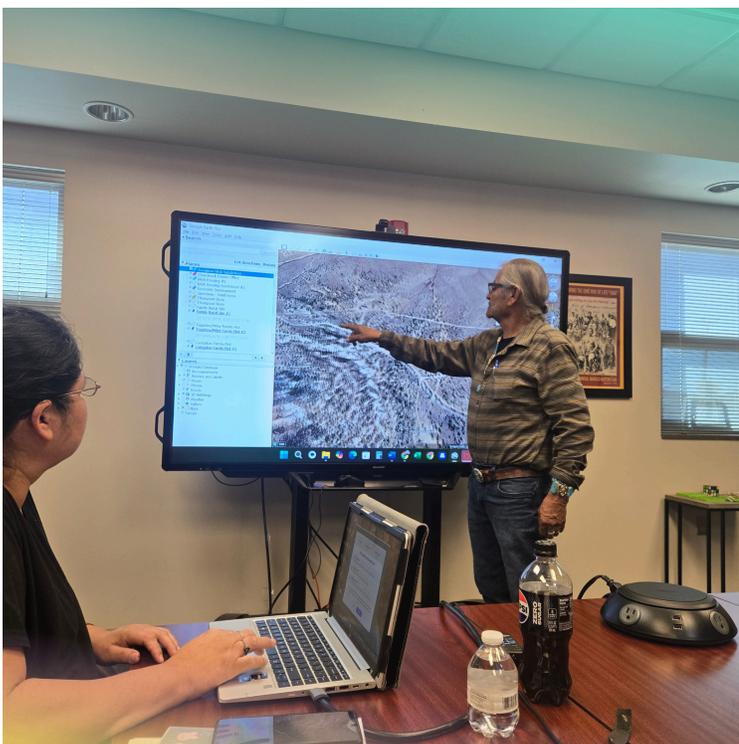
The Church Rock Chapter Community Land Use Planning (CLUP) Committee recently contacted the Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) for technical assistance. The purpose of this request was to discuss how solid waste planning can be included in the Chapter's Community Land Use Plan.

Solid waste management is an important part of community planning. It helps protect public health, prevent illegal dumping, and support a clean and safe environment. By including solid waste in the land use plan, the Chapter is planning ahead for future growth and development.

The Solid Waste Management Department provided guidance on:

- Current waste collection services
- Illegal dumping concerns
- Proper placement of waste bins
- Long-term planning for solid waste infrastructure
- Support and funding options available to Chapters

This collaboration shows the Chapter's commitment to responsible planning and environmental protection. Working together helps ensure that land use decisions support a clean and healthy community for future generations.



# Atsá Biyaázh 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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