

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníílgíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Wóózhch'ííjd

Díí naltsoos biyi' baach'ida hwiit'aah

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Nít béé hoziníshii...

Did You Know...

Andy Warhol greatly admired the artistry that Native Americans applied to their art and cultural objects, especially Navajo blankets and rugs. He was impressed by how the Navajo weavers used abstraction and compared the textiles to Cubism and Hard Edge painting, pre-dating those styles of art by decades. Warhol collected many of them... [<https://www.instagram.com/p/CyLdAcAOp7L/>]

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

Events:

March: Wóózhch'ííjd - 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

April: T'ááqchil - Little Leaves

- April 1: April Fool's Day
- April 3: Good Friday
- April 5: Easter
- April 16: Navajo Nation Sovereignty Day
- April 22: Earth Day

Navajo Nation CHID Continues Steady Progress on ARPA Section 10 Housing



March has been a month of meaningful progress for the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program, as Work Order 1 and Work Order 3 continue advancing toward full completion. The majority of homes under both work orders have now been delivered, and each unit has undergone the required interior and exterior punch list protocols to ensure every home meets the standards expected for long-term safety, comfort, and durability. These steps reflect the commitment of CHID staff, contractors, and chapter partners who have worked diligently to uphold program expectations and honor the families who will live in these homes for years to come.

February and March have been especially busy, with significant numbers of key turnovers completed across multiple communities. Families in Coppermine, LeChee, Kayenta, Oljato, Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Bodaway/Gap, Kaibeto, Tuba City, Coalmine Canyon, Cameron, Leupp, and Tolani Lake received their new homes, marking a major milestone for both Work Order #1 and Work Order #3. Each turnover followed proper protocols, including

verification of completed punch list items during homeowner walk-throughs, confirmation of utility readiness—including coordination between recipients and NTUA—and the signing of all required documentation. These steps ensured that every home was delivered in a condition that reflects the care and responsibility entrusted to CHID.

For each family, receiving their keys and Master Certificate of Origin has been a moment of pride and relief. The Master Certificate of Origin formally establishes homeownership, providing documentation that supports future needs such as insurance and warranties. Many recipients expressed gratitude for the opportunity to finally have a safe, modern home—something that has long been a dream for their families. These moments of delivery are not simply administrative tasks; they are life-changing events that bring stability, dignity, and hope to our communities.

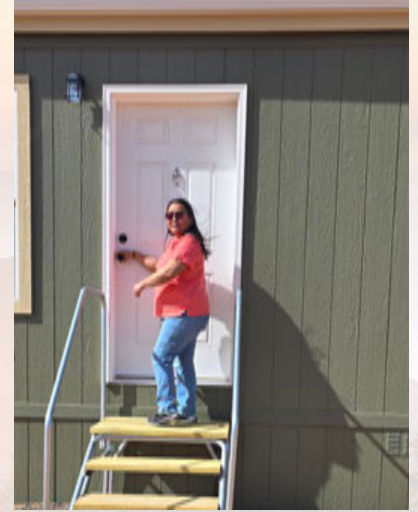
CHID also continues to work closely with Lupton, Houck, Nahata Dziil, Wide Ruins,

Klagetoh, and White Cone. These constituents have received their Certificate of Origin and Bill of Sale and have been able to address any remaining issues with their homes, including warranty concerns, utility matters, and other follow-up needs. Although their key turnovers were not part of the February and March schedule, their progress remains a priority.

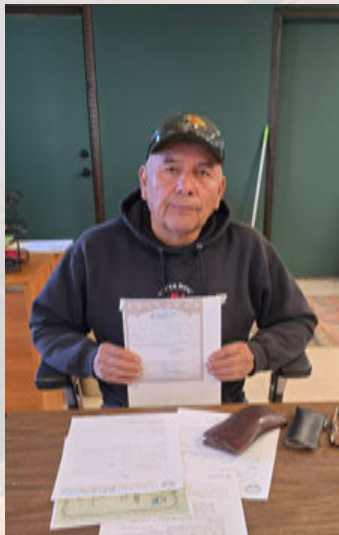
CHID is coordinating with chapter officials to ensure their homes are completed with the same consistency and respect demonstrated across all other communities.



The progress achieved this month also reflects the continued support of the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President and their executive staff. Their administration has remained committed to strengthening housing development, improving interdepartmental coordination, and ensuring that ARPA-funded initiatives move forward responsibly and transparently. Their guidance reinforces the importance of delivering safe, quality homes to Navajo families and has contributed to the steady momentum seen across the Section 10 Housing Program. Their leadership underscores



a shared commitment to building stronger communities and improving quality of life across the Nation.



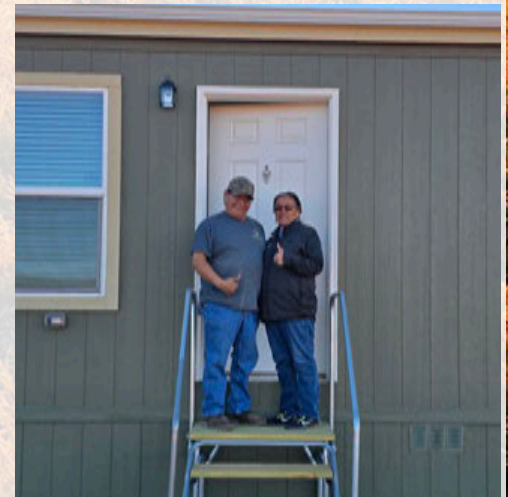
While March brought significant accomplishments, work remains. A small number of homes are still in the final stages of delivery, and some punch list items continue to be addressed. These include minor interior adjustments, exterior grading, and accessibility improvements. CHID staff, along with contractors and chapter administrative staff, remain committed to completing these final tasks with the same level of care that has guided the program from the beginning. This remaining work is not a setback but a necessary step in ensuring every home is delivered properly and responsibly.

The progress made this month reflects the strength of collaboration between chapters, delegates, contractors, and CHID staff. Coordinating multiple turnovers across several communities within a short period demonstrates the dedication of everyone involved. Delegates played an important role in supporting their constituents during



the turnover process, ensuring families understood their documents, responsibilities, and next steps after receiving their homes. Chapters assisted with notifications, site access, and communication, helping keep the process organized and respectful.

As we move into April, the focus remains on completing the remaining homes, supporting chapters with final notifications, and ensuring every family receives the documents and information they need. CHID will continue monitoring outstanding punch list items, coordinating with contractors on final repairs, and preparing for the next round of key turnovers. While the work is not yet finished, March once again demonstrated that the Section 10 Housing Program is delivering meaningful results for communities across the Navajo Nation. Each completed home represents progress, stability, and a renewed sense of hope for the families who now have a place to call their own.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The Administrative Services Centers (ASC) continued to provide robust support to all 110 chapters across the Navajo Nation, maintaining a focus on technical assistance, compliance, and strengthening day-to-day operations.

A primary focus for March was facilitating the distribution of Navajo Nation Sales Tax chapter funding, which became available for chapters to begin drafting their budgets. ASC collaborated with the Navajo Tax Commission, OMB, and OOC to finalize the calculated breakdown of the FY2026 Navajo Nation Sales Tax fund distribution.

ASC offices are now actively assisting chapters through the budgeting process for these new Navajo Nation Sales Tax funds, building upon the ongoing work of reviewing Unhealthy Food & Beverage Sales Tax (UFBST) budgets for compliance with Navajo Nation laws and policies.

Furthermore, the department advanced its work by finalizing department recommendations for the 2027 Budget Instructions Manual (BIM), specifically focusing on Appendices M and M-1.

ASC also continued providing hands-on technical assistance to chapters in addressing audit findings and Corrective Action Plans (CAPs), ensuring compliance with the Five Management Systems (FMS), and offering one-on-one training for new staff and officials. These efforts reflect ASC's continued commitment to hands-on support, collaboration, and strengthening chapter operations across the Nation.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

The Ft. Defiance Administrative Services Center (ASC) and successfully hosted 2-Day Staff Meeting/Training Event on March 9-10, 2026 at San Juan College.

A two-day event focused on essential departmental and chapter updates took place on March 9-10, 2026, hosted and facilitated by our Ft. Defiance ASC Staff (Patricia Begay-SPPS, Erica Christie-Sorrel-ASO, and Laci Begay-OS) featuring presentations from the Department of Justice and the Office of the Auditor General.

Day one began with welcome remarks and an invocation, leading into a session from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM with the Department of Justice, led by Rodgerick Begay. Following a lunch break, Jeanine Jones from the Office of the Auditor General presented from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The day concluded with "Other/ Updates" from FDASC staff and adjournment at 5:00 PM.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

The Ft. Defiance Administrative Services Center (ASC) and successfully hosted 2-Day Staff Meeting/Training Event Cont.

Day two concentrated on chapter planning and land use updates, commencing with sign-in, registration, an invocation, and introductions. A significant portion of the morning was dedicated to a CLUPC (Community Land Use Planning Committee) Status Update Manual review for Coyote Canyon, Crystal, Fort Defiance, Houck, Oak Springs, and Lupton Chapters. Latasha James, NNDCC Senior Planner, then delivered a CLUPC Presentation and Explanation, followed by a Questions and Discussion session. The two-day event wrapped up with more updates from the FDASC and final adjournment at 5:00 PM.



Story and Photo Submission by Laci Begay, Ft. Defiance ASC OS

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

The Dilkon Administrative Services Center (ASC) and the NNDCCD staff successfully hosted a CLUPC Orientation Training and Refresher for returning members on March 23, 2026.

The Ganado Chapter hosted the training, which was facilitated by ASC staff, including Toni Mina, ASO; Eunice Begay, SPPS; and Jennifer Ruskin, OS. NNDCCD Senior Planner Latasha James also assisted with the orientation and refresher.

The event welcomed chapter representatives from Cornfields, Indian Wells, KinDahLichii, Low Mountain, and Steamboat, in addition to the host chapter, Ganado. The training provided essential orientation and refresher information for returning members of the Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC). Chapters noted as absent from the training included Klagetoh, Nazlini, St. Michaels, Teesto, White Cone, and Wide Ruins.



Story and Photo Submission by Toni Mina, Dilkon ASC ASO

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

Welcome Aboard Our Team!

The Administrative Services Centers (ASC) is excited to announce the addition of three new staff members. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest colleagues.

We are delighted to have these talented individuals join the Division of Community Development team. Many of you will have the opportunity to work alongside them in the near future, so please feel free to reach out, introduce yourselves, and help them feel connected as they begin their roles supporting our chapters.

Our new team members are:

- Seth Henderson, Accounts Maintenance Specialist for GadiiAhi/Tokoi Chapter
- Lakeysha Nathaniel, Community Services Coordinator for Nenahnezad Chapter
- Jolinda White, Accounts Maintenance Specialist for Nageezi Chapter

Welcome to the team! We look forward to working with you.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Kayenta Senior Center Demolition is Complete!

The Kayenta Chapter is taking a major step toward a new facility for their elderly community members. The Chapter recently finished the demolition phase of the Kayenta Senior Center project.¹

This project is a high priority because the elderly community has been without a center for over three years. Work began on this project in August 2025. After community approval, a vendor was selected in February 2026. The demolition, along with the required hazardous material removal, was completed this month (March 2026).¹

The project is supported by a fund transfer from the Kayenta Chapter's Navajo County fund and other Chapter fund accounts. The Kayenta community is eager to see the new facility built for their elderly members.

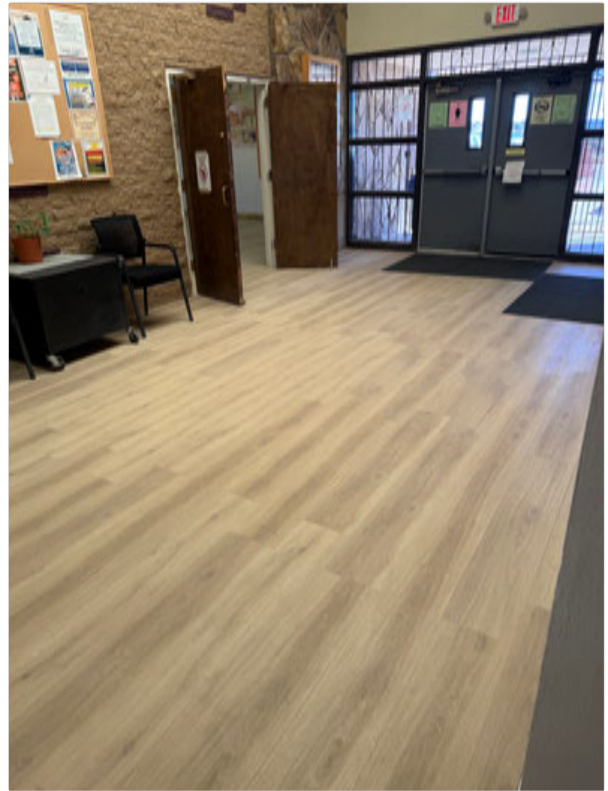
Story and Photos submitted by
Clairice Begay, Kayenta Chapter Manager.



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Jeddito Chapter Gets a Modern Update with New Flooring

The Jeddito Chapter facility has a new, modern look following the installation of new flooring. This renovation project was a local effort, completed by PEP worker Isaac Yazzie and Navajo Nation workforce worker Dajuan Jim. Their Accounts Maintenance Specialist, Titania Chee, reports that the chapter now looks "nice and more modern", enhancing the facility for the Jeddito community.



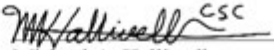
CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

The Wide Ruins Chapter, led by Community Service Coordinator Michael Halliwell, hosted a much-needed "Shelter Simulation Fundamentals training" provided by the Red Cross to help the community prepare for and provide support during emergencies.

WIDE RUINS CHAPTER

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

TO: Wide Ruins Chapter Community Members & Stakeholders

FROM: 
Michael A. Halliwell,
Community Service Coordinator

DATE: March 21, 2026

SUBJECT: Shelter Simulation Fundamentals Training and Emergency Preparedness Initiatives

The Wide Ruins Chapter Administration extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Jeremy Sleeter, Community Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross-Northern Arizona Chapter, and his team for traveling to the Wide Ruins Chapter House on March 20, 2026, to deliver the Shelter Simulation Fundamentals training. This training provided a foundational overview of the guidelines and procedures for establishing, managing, and closing a shelter during disaster situations.

Given the increasing frequency of weather-related, environmental, and technology-based emergencies affecting our region, this training was both timely and essential. It is critical that our chapter, along with neighboring chapters, is adequately prepared to respond effectively and support our communities during times of crisis. With the support of Mr. Edmund Z. Tso, Emergency Services Coordinator for the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, we were able to bring this important training directly to our community, benefiting chapter administrative staff and elected officials. It was especially encouraging to see strong participation not only from various chapters but also from the Navajo Nation Department of Health, whose representatives contributed valuable insight on maintaining safe and healthy shelter environments.

Additionally, during the Special Session of the 25th Navajo Nation Council held on March 19, 2026, our Honorable Council Delegates approved Legislation No. 0029-26, allocating \$6 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to provide emergency assistance to all 110 chapters. It is our hope that the knowledge gained from this training will empower chapter administrative staff and elected officials to make informed decisions in utilizing these funds effectively to support our communities during emergencies.

Looking ahead, with continued collaboration from the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, we plan to offer additional training opportunities in the coming weeks, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) courses. These trainings will be extended to elected officials, administrative staff, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members, and interested community members.

As the Community Service Coordinator for your Wide Ruins Chapter, it is my hope that leaders across our communities will continue to come together, stay informed, and strengthen our collective capacity to protect and sustain the biopsychosocial well-being of our Diné people during times of emergency. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling my direct line at (928)652-3242 or emailing MHalliwell@NNChapters.org.

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



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Continued...

Photos from Wide Ruins Chapter Shelter Simulation Fundamentals training:



STAY CONNECTED WITH BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER

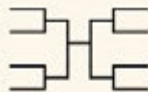
Thank you for reading this month's newsletter!
We appreciate your continued support and involvement in our community



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 Habitlin 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



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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' Naaltsos Bidadiiljeehí

NAVAJO NATION MOVES FORWARD WITH NEW GIMC IN GAMERCO

Gallup Sun Publishing
March 13, 2026

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Senior Advisor Mark Cruz and Indian Health Service Chief of Staff Clayton Fulton visited the Navajo Nation March 12 to tour the selected Gamerco, N.M., site for the future replacement of the Gallup Indian Medical Center.

The visit included a project overview led by Navajo Department of Health Executive Director Sherylene Yazzie and representatives from the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, giving federal officials a firsthand look at the proposed hospital location and planning underway for what is expected to become one of the largest tribal hospital campuses in the U.S.

"The replacement of the Gallup Indian Medical Center remains the Navajo Nation's number one healthcare infrastructure priority," Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. "This project is essential to ensuring our families and future generations have access to the modern healthcare facility they deserve. We appreciate Secretary Kennedy and his team for their continued partnership in moving this effort forward."

Navajo leaders emphasized the need to restore \$60 million in federal funding originally allocated to begin the planning phase. Once secured, the Indian Health Service will initiate a 90-day Site Selection Evaluation Report to finalize the project location and advance the effort toward design and construction.

"This visit reflects the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to improving healthcare for the Navajo people," Yazzie said. "For too long, our patients, elders, and healthcare workers have carried the burden of an aging facility. A new Gallup Indian Medical Center represents hope, progress, and dignity in care for our communities."

The Navajo region is the largest service area within the IHS, spanning Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah and serving more than 423,000 Navajo citizens. The system includes federally operated IHS facilities, tribally operated programs, and Urban Indian health organizations, creating one of the most complex tribal healthcare networks in the country. The new GIMC campus will serve thousands of patients across the Four Corners region and neighboring tribal nations.

"Secretary Kennedy and the Trump Administration are committed to making America healthy again," Cruz said. "That includes ensuring the Indian Health Service has modern facilities to deliver high-quality care. On behalf of Secretary Kennedy, I appreciated the opportunity to visit Gallup Indian Medical Center

and see its work firsthand. I look forward to continuing HHS' collaboration with the Navajo Nation to strengthen healthcare services and improve health outcomes across Indian Country."

Navajo leaders also thanked the City of Gallup and McKinley County for their continued support. The 570-acre Gamerco site is envisioned as a regional healthcare campus designed to serve thousands of Native patients, with room for expanded services including behavioral health, long-term care, wellness and childcare facilities, retail services, and housing for medical staff and their families.

"The 25th Navajo Nation Council selected the Gamerco site because it is ready for construction," Health, Education, and Human Services Committee Chairman Vince James said. "Our communities have waited long enough for modern healthcare facilities. Restoring the original \$60 million in federal planning funds will allow us to move forward and bring this long-awaited hospital closer to reality. This land holds tremendous promise, and we stand united in support of a new GIMC for the Navajo people."

The site was approved by the Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee in June 2024, replacing the previously identified Rehoboth location due to concerns related to land size, transportation access, zoning, cultural considerations, and drainage. The Gamerco site was selected because it is Navajo Nation-owned land with existing infrastructure to support development.

"We appreciate Secretary Kennedy for standing with Tribal Nations and recognizing the healthcare challenges our people face every day," Council Delegate Germaine Simonson said. "Our teachings remind us that the Holy People intended for our people to live long, healthy lives – even reaching the age of 102 – supported by good food, strong families, and balanced living. Building a new Gallup Indian Medical Center will help restore hope and create a healthier future for the Navajo people."

In May 2024, Nygren formally notified former IHS Director Roselyn Tso of the Nation's updated site selection and requested continued federal support to secure full funding for the replacement facility.

"Water and sewer infrastructure are already in place at the Gamerco site, and the location provides strong



capacity for development," Rear Admiral Brian Johnson said. "With direct access from Highway 491 serving many Navajo communities, the site offers an important opportunity to improve regional access to healthcare services."

Representatives for U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M., U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, D-N.M., attended the site visit alongside Navajo Area Indian Health Service officials, engineers, construction specialists, and other federal and tribal partners supporting the hospital project.

With the Gamerco site ready for development, Nygren and the 25th Navajo Nation Council, in partnership with the Navajo Department of Health, are planning a future groundbreaking ceremony as the project moves into the planning, design, and construction phases.

"It's an exciting moment for the Indian Health Service and the future of healthcare in the Navajo area," IHS Chief of Staff Clayton Fulton said. "We are planning for the next 50 years, and this facility will help shape how care is delivered for generations of Navajo families and communities across Indian Country."

Yazzie said the progress reflects the Navajo Nation's determination to strengthen healthcare across the Nation.

"This effort shows what is possible when Navajo and federal leaders move forward with a shared purpose," Yazzie said. "We will keep building that momentum so the next generation of Navajo families can experience a Gallup Indian Medical Center that reflects the Navajo Healing Navajo mission and provides modern care closer to home."

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/416Sngc>

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Navajo Nation inks deal with Utah looking to keep filmmaking within Monument Valley and beyond

KJZZ | By Gabriel Pietrorazio

Published March 31, 2026 at 7:19 AM MST

The Navajo Nation recently inked a new agreement with the state of Utah that spotlights advancing economic development and authentic Indigenous representation through cinema.

Signed earlier this month, the memorandum of understanding formalizes a time-honored tradition of filmmaking on Navajoland – home to one of Hollywood's most iconic Western settings straddling Utah and Arizona.

'This is all we got, and we want to protect it'

Navajos refer to Monument Valley as Tsé Bii' Ndzisgaii, which essentially means "the streaks that go around

in the rocks." If you ever take a road trip there, you'll see why this legendary landscape is so much more than just a movie set.

In fact, it's a 91,696-acre tribal park.

In 1958, Monument Valley was the first preserve to be founded by the Navajo Nation Council. And depending on the season, it's also where about 100 or so Navajos actually call home today. The snowy 17-mile dirt loop – dotted with sheep, horses and hogans – is managed by the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation.

"If they say no, we tell the film production, no," said Edsel Pete, who is Diné and program manager for the Navajo Nation TV and Film Office. "But that doesn't mean that we're going to shut the door on you."

This agreement is all about being "film friendly" by building up a local workforce, from camera crew to actors, through its Navajo Talent Agent Program, while also caring for the environment and the tribe's natural resources.

Scripts can be changed – the land, not so much.

Any location outside of a designated tribal park is where Pete's office has jurisdiction directly overseeing film permits. Otherwise, Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation staff consults with residents to make that final call.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4tlf38G>



Navajo Nation Dog Rescuer Earns

by Elyse Wild

March 26, 2026

When Chantal Wadsworth (Diné) and her partner Vernan Kee took a road trip across the Navajo Nation during the COVID-19 pandemic, she noticed something for the first time. Amid the breathtaking landscape of towering red stone mesas, soaring buttes, and endless sprawling desert, were countless dogs.

"You see them everywhere," Wadsworth said. "Gas stations, junctions, grocery stores, the side of the road. Sometimes we would see dogs in the middle of nowhere, and it's like they couldn't possibly have a home out here, nobody out here, and they probably were abandoned. So that's when we started asking ourselves: how can we help?"

That question led Wadsworth and her partner to start Rez Road Rescue in 2023.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed; earlier this month, the Humane World for Animals – formerly Humane Society International – nominated Wadsworth for its More Than a Pet Community Hero Award. The honor recognizes individuals who work to bring equal access to pet care and resources to their communities.

"I couldn't believe I was chosen," Wadsworth told Native News Online. "The first thing I thought was that I don't want to use this opportunity to highlight myself, but the people here who are doing this work. There is a viewpoint of people on the outside that 'oh, they aren't doing anything to help the dog situation,' and that we depend on outside organizations to fix everything. That is just not the case. We see people, families, every day who are helping these dogs."

According to various sources, there are an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 dogs and cats on the Navajo Nation, a reservation that spans 27,000 square miles and includes parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

On many reservations, stray dogs – often called rez dogs – are ubiquitous. They can be seen lounging in parking lots, trotting along the side of the road, or walking through housing developments. Some are feral, but the canines may not be strays in the traditional sense: many are cared for by the community. They may wander during the day but sleep at a residence. Oftentimes, a community member, or several, will feed them. And, they come in all shapes



and sizes.

The numbers amount to an animal welfare crisis that drives the spread of infectious disease, bites, and injuries.

The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends a series of core vaccines for puppies starting at 6-8 weeks of age, with the final vaccines given at around 16 weeks. Many animal welfare and veterinary organizations advocate spaying and neutering cats and dogs to combat overpopulation. For pet owners, keeping up with this baseline care means 3-5 vet appointments in as many months.

In 2024, there were just three licensed vets serving in the Navajo Nation. Rescue organizations and volunteers like Wadsworth are essential to keeping animals healthy and making headway against a seemingly endless deluge of strays.

"People can't take care of multiple litters," Wadsworth said. "So sometimes that leads them to dumping them ...READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4b1C7bo>

Bulletin Board

Welcome Baby Event

This celebration began from a beautiful idea shared by my doula, one rooted in how other Native communities honor and welcome their newest babies. That inspiration has grown into something meaningful for our own families here on the Navajo Nation.

I want to invite and welcome all Navajo babies born from April 2025 to April 2026, including expecting Navajo mothers. The event will take place on April 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM in Shiprock, NM. We will offer valuable education and resources to help their babies grow into healthy and successful individuals.

Our goal is to ensure that every new parent feels supported and equipped with essential information, supplies, and community connections. We want every single Navajo baby set up for success. In addition to an agenda packed with guest speakers, panels, and entertainment honoring the babies, we are also informing families of the resources available to them as tribal members.

Please register with the QR code or at: opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/welcome-baby

We look forward to celebrating with you and your little ones, our future, our blessings. Ahéhee'

- **Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, First Lady, Navajo Nation**

Táá' Góne' Awéé' Baa Hózhó Bil Hwiil'aah

++ Nihí'awéé' ++

Baa Nihí Dahózhó dóó

Baa Ahééh Daniidzin

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 | 9 AM
SHIPROCK HIGH SCHOOL



REGISTER NOW:
opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/welcome-baby

+++++

This event celebrates Navajo babies born from April 2025 to April 2026, including expecting Navajo mothers, offering valuable education and resources to help their babies grow into healthy, successful individuals.

This event will feature special guests, speakers, presentations, informational booths, and resources to support their baby's connection to the land and community.

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY
JASMINE BLACKWATER-NYGREN



Traditional Foods as Medicine: Research Revolutionizes Heart Failure Care in the Navajo Nation

Author(s) Aislinn Antrim, Associate Editorial Director
March 29, 2026

In the vast, high-desert landscape of the Navajo Nation, a groundbreaking clinical trial is proving that the path to better cardiovascular health might not just be found in a pharmacy bottle, but also in the traditional kitchens of the Diné people. The results of the MUTTON-HF (Medically Utilized Tailored Traditional food to Optimize Nutrition in Heart Failure) trial, presented at the American College of Cardiology 2026 Scientific Sessions, offer a compelling look at how Food is Medicine interventions can drastically reduce hospitalizations for high-risk patients.

A Radical Approach to a Structural Problem

For decades, Indigenous populations have faced significant cardiovascular health disparities, often driven by nutrition insecurity—a legacy of settler colonialism that disrupted traditional food systems. The MUTTON-HF study, funded by the American Heart Association's Health Care by Food initiative, sought to address this by reintroducing medically tailored, culturally relevant meals to patients struggling with heart failure (HF).

The trial was a pragmatic, randomized controlled study conducted at 2 Indian Health Service sites in rural Navajo Nation. It enrolled 206 patients, nearly all of whom were American Indian, with a mean age of 66. Participants were high-risk individuals who had been hospitalized or visited

the emergency department for heart failure within the previous year.

The Intervention: Blue Corn MUSH and Mutton Stew

The heart of the study was the culturally and medically tailored meal. Unlike standard healthy meal programs that might feel foreign to Indigenous patients, MUTTON-HF partnered with local Diné farmers and ranchers to source traditional ingredients. The meals were designed with Diné dietitians and produced by Tocabe, a Native-run meal company.

The sample menu reflects a deep respect for heritage: blue corn mush with blueberries, mutton rainbow stew, Three Sisters Chowder, and shredded bison wheatberry bowls. While culturally grounded, these meals were strictly engineered to meet the American Heart Association's sodium-restricted Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) guidelines. To overcome the logistical hurdles of the rural reservation, meals were delivered to central hubs or directly to homes by community health representatives, with the study even providing propane-powered appliances to those without electricity.

Clinical Success: Reducing the Burden on Hospitals

The data reveal a striking success. Patients receiving the tailored meals saw a significant reduction in the primary end point of all-cause hospitalization or emergency department visits within 90 days. Specifically, only 40.6% of



Image credit: Leckerstudio | stock.adobe.com

the intervention group required such care, compared to 57.0% in the usual care group.

The secondary outcomes were equally impressive. Heart failure-specific hospitalizations plummeted from 13.0% in the control group to just 3.8% in the intervention group. Patients also reported better quality of life, with significant improvements in physical and social limitation scores on the Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire. Furthermore, the intervention group lost an average of 3.5 lbs, whereas the control group actually gained weight, and systolic blood pressure dropped by an average of 6.7 mmHg more than the control group.

READ MORE AT: <https://tinyurl.com/yckbdyxx>

Bulletin Board

Benally made history, now gives back to Native American roots

By Tri-City Record staff

Friday, Mar 13, 2026 1:45 PM Updated Friday, Mar. 13, 2026 1:45 PM

FARMINGTON – Analyss Benally is turning her basketball dream into something bigger. She went from a standout high school player to a Division I sharpshooter at San Jose State – and is now one of the few Native American women to play professional basketball overseas.

Today, Analyss and her father, Brian, give back by hosting free basketball camps on reservations, inspiring Native youth to believe in their dreams and their potential.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4dHa02L>
<https://bit.ly/4dHa02L>



Analyss Benally appeared on the Jennifer Hudson Show to talk about her rise from high school basketball player to a Division I sharpshooter and one of the few Native American women to play professional basketball overseas. (Courtesy Photo)

Crownpoint twins reunite to lead Northwestern Oklahoma State University's rodeo charge



By Ted Harbin, Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Thursday, Feb 26, 2026 9:00 AM

ALVA, Okla. – Tyra and Tydon Tsosie have spent their lives competing side-by-side across the Navajo Nation, but for one year, the Crownpoint twins found themselves on opposite sides of the state line.

That separation ended this fall when Tyra transferred from Eastern New Mexico University to join her brother at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. The move paid immediate dividends this past weekend at the Kansas State University rodeo in Manhattan.

Tyra Tsosie, a sophomore, captured the goat-tying title, marking a dominant start to the Central Plains Region's spring schedule. After tying for third in the opening round with a 7.3-second run, she clocked a 6.7 in the finals to secure both the championship round and the aggregate title.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/418ffMu>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Positions

Naanish aa 'idaat'ehigíí

Administrative Services Centers

Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	\$31,257.36	4/1/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Becenti, NM	\$31,257.36	4/2/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Pueblo Pintado, NM	\$31,257.36	4/2/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Huerfano, NM	\$31,257.36	4/3/2026
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$44,098.56	4/3/2026
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$44,098.56	4/3/2026
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Pinedale, NM	\$44,098.56	4/3/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$31,257.36	4/3/2026
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rock Springs, NM	\$31,257.36	4/9/2026
Administrative Services Officer (S)	Kayenta, AZ	\$51,364.80	4/10/2026
Administrative Services Officer (S)	Fort Defiance, AZ	\$51,364.80	4/13/2026

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at <https://apply.navajo-nsn.gov/>

Quote of the Month

Saad BaꞤ Nitsáhakeesigíí

Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigíí Naashch'aa'



2026 Census Test Updates

U.S. Census Bureau to Conduct Pilot With U.S. Postal Service for 2026 Operational Test

March 23, 2026

Press Release Number: CB26-CN.01

MARCH 23, 2026 – The U.S. Census Bureau last month announced it has modified its 2026 Census Test sites to Huntsville, Alabama, and Spartanburg, South Carolina. These sites were selected to give the Census Bureau the opportunity to explore how working with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) could increase effectiveness and how to improve in-field enumeration processes for the 2030 Census.

Starting on May 1, the Census Bureau will invite approximately 154,600 households in Spartanburg and Huntsville to respond to the test online in English only via computer, smartphone and tablet. Phone and mail responses will not be offered.

Location	Approximate Number of Housing Units
Huntsville, Alabama	81,000
Spartanburg, South Carolina	73,600
Total	154,600

2026 Census Test: Household Invitations

The test will include the same questions asked in the American Community Survey (ACS), which collects detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing data. Questions are expected to take around 40 minutes to complete and include name, race, sex, citizenship and education.

A smaller subset of questions will be asked for households who do not respond on their own. Using the ACS allows the Census Bureau to leverage existing questions that the Census Bureau already asks.

Starting on June 1 and through August 31 when data collection ends, census takers, including postal workers, may visit households that do not respond on their own to collect responses in person. Responses to Census Bureau surveys are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. All responses are kept completely confidential and can only be used to produce statistics.

U.S. Postal Service Pilot to Support In-Field Enumeration

As part of a new collaboration designed to inform potential nationwide implementation in the 2030 Census, the Census Bureau and USPS will assess the feasibility of using postal workers to collect census responses from households that do not respond on their own. In Huntsville, the Census Bureau will directly hire postal workers to collect responses outside of their USPS work hours. In Spartanburg, postal workers in the pilot will integrate census duties into their regular mail delivery routes during work hours.

Postal workers in the pilot will have been background checked, receive census-specific training and will follow Census Bureau confidentiality provisions under Title 13 of the U.S. Code.

A combination of city and rural carriers will be used at each site, with participation in Huntsville also open to other postal employees. Approximately 25 postal workers, and 25 other (non-postal worker) census takers at each site, will visit households that do not respond on their own. This collaboration builds on the Census Bureau's longstanding relationship with USPS and the vital role it plays in the census count.

Specific information for the pilot on each test site is below.

Huntsville: Census Bureau to Hire USPS Staff

In Huntsville, postal workers will be hired as Census Bureau employees to collect census responses. During the test, postal workers in this site will hold two separate federal positions (with USPS and the Census Bureau). There will also be other (non-postal worker) census takers collecting responses from households in the same area. Because census takers often have to visit households more than once, it is possible that a household is visited by both postal and non-postal census takers at this site.

- Census Bureau or USPS. Postal workers will perform census duties as Census Bureau employees and will not identify themselves as USPS staff. Households may not be able to distinguish whether the person collecting their responses is a postal worker or Census Bureau census taker.
- Census work hours. Postal workers will perform census duties outside their regular postal duties, as Census Bureau employees. This means respondents may see postal workers in the evening and on weekends. However, they will identify themselves solely as Census Bureau employees.
- USPS collaboration. The USPS will assist in recruiting its employees for the test.
- Pay. Postal workers will be paid the same rate of \$19.75/hour as the other non-postal census takers collecting responses.

Spartanburg: USPS Workers as Special Sworn Staff

In Spartanburg, postal workers will collect responses in distinct locations from the other traditional, non-postal census takers. This means either a postal worker or non-postal census taker may visit a household depending on its location. Postal workers will collect census responses as USPS employees as part of their mail delivery route. They will clearly identify themselves and may be in their official USPS uniforms.

- Census Bureau or USPS. Postal workers will perform census duties as USPS employees only (and not as Census Bureau employees). They will be specially sworn in to uphold the same laws as Census Bureau employees.
- Census work hours. Postal workers will perform census tasks while delivering mail on their unique, assigned carrier route.
- USPS collaboration. The USPS will collaborate with the Census Bureau throughout the pilot.
- Pay. Postal workers will be paid their usual USPS rates.

In-Field Enumeration

In addition to testing whether the Census Bureau can leverage postal workers' local knowledge and community relationships, the 2026 Census Test will evaluate and refine key processes including in-field enumeration. This involves improving field infrastructure, staffing, training, and in-person data collection methods.

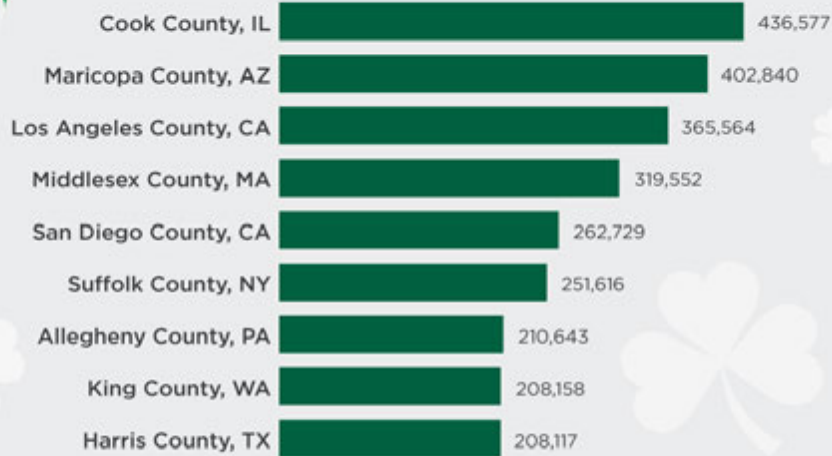
A key focus will be to determine ways to reduce census taker visits to households that do not respond on their own. This can result in smaller field workloads, fewer census takers, and ultimately lower costs.

The 2026 Census Test will evaluate the viability of innovations planned for the 2030 Census and inform the Census Bureau's readiness to achieve a complete and accurate count of the nation's population.

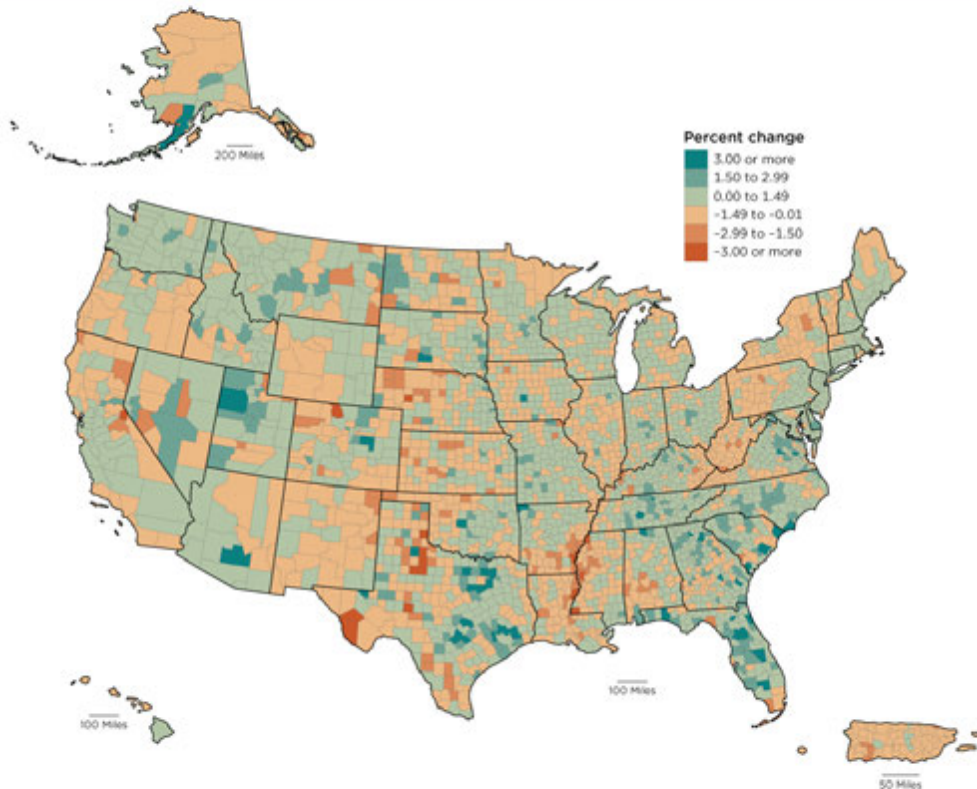
READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026/2026-census-test-updates.html>

Irish-American Heritage Month

Counties With the Largest Irish Population



Percent Change in County Population: July 1, 2024 to July 1, 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 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
(505) 318 - 6860



Wóózhch'íid



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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