

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníligíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Ya'liishjáashtsoh

Díí naltsoos biyi' baach'ida hwiit'aah.....

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Nít béé hoziníshii...

Did You Know...

Horse racing among the Diné dates back to the 1800s, after horses became an integral part of Navajo life. Traditionally, races were held during community gatherings, celebrations, and fairs. They were more than sporting events—they were social gatherings where families came together, horsemanship was celebrated, and riders earned respect through their skill and the quality of their horses. Historical accounts also note that horse racing helped lay the foundation for what later became Indian rodeo on the Navajo Nation.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/4wFUe90>

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

Events:

July: Ya'liishjáashtsoh - Planting of Late Crops

July 4: Independence Day

July 26: Parents' Day

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

August 3: Fall TIF Application Opened.

August 14: Navajo Code Talker's Day

August 10-16: 40th Central Agency Fair

August 21-23: 31st Ramah Navajo Fair & Rodeo

CHID Field Staff Complete Skid Steer Safety Training to Strengthen Housing Operations



Submitted By Jerrilyn Owens, CHID OS

During the month of June, the Community Housing & Infrastructure Department (CHID), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) successfully completed the required Skid Steer Loader Safety Training for all field personnel. This training was made possible through coordination with All Purpose Heavy Equipment Training and the support of the Division of Community Development (DCD). Thanks to the efforts of CHID Administrative Assistant Jerrilyn Owens, the training was brought directly to Window Rock and held in the DCD Administration Building 2 conference room, allowing staff to participate without travel delays or scheduling conflicts.

This training was especially important following CHID's purchase of a new skid steer in December 2025. This major investment will allow carpenters and field crews to work more efficiently on renovation and new construction projects across the Navajo Nation. With housing needs continuing to grow, ensuring staff are fully trained and competent in the operation of heavy equipment is essential to CHID's mission of improving homes and supporting community development.

Field staff completed eight hours of hands-on and classroom instruction covering equipment safety, daily inspections, operational controls, and practical skills. The training emphasized hazard awareness, safe maneuvering, load handling, and the proper use of attachments. Staff were able to operate the new skid steer under supervision, gaining confidence and practical experience that will directly support their daily work.



CHID Updates



The training provided official certification for each participant. This certification is more than a formality; it provides important liability protection for both the employee and the department. Proper certification helps ensure CHID meets federal safety requirements, reduces the risk of workplace injuries, and protects the department from potential claims or penalties related to improper equipment use. In short, certified operators help safeguard CHID's workforce, equipment, and housing projects.

CHID Construction Supervisor Jeffrey Goodluck emphasized, "The importance of this training cannot be overstated. Safety is our top priority,

and we do not want to send carpenters into the field without proper instruction. Our goal is to ensure they are not only trained, but fully competent and confident when operating equipment."

The following CHID, HIP, and CDBG staff successfully completed the training: CHID Staff:

Jeffrey Goodluck, Tyler Willatto, Shaquille Spencer

HIP Staff: Emmett Tsosie, William Yazzie, Darrell Yazzie, Joseph Charley, Adam Plummer

CDBG Staff: Jerome Meyer

The value of this training extends far beyond the classroom. With a fully trained team, CHID can now deploy the skid steer to support a wide range of housing operations, from foundation preparation and grading to debris removal, site cleanup, and material transport. For renovation projects, the skid steer improves efficiency by reducing manual labor and speeding up demolition and site preparation. For new construction, it supports excavation, leveling, and structural preparation, helping crews stay on schedule and improving overall project quality.

Additionally, having certified operators strengthens CHID's ability to respond quickly to urgent housing needs across the Navajo Nation. Whether addressing storm-damaged homes, preparing sites for new construction, or supporting large-scale community housing initiatives, trained staff ensure that CHID can operate safely, efficiently, and confidently.

This training marks another step forward in CHID's ongoing effort to modernize its equipment, strengthen its workforce, and enhance the quality of housing services provided to Navajo families. By investing in both tools and training, CHID continues to build a safer, more capable, and more resilient housing program.





CHID Updates

Welcome to CHID: Torrance Bryant Joins the Housing Team

The Community Housing & Infrastructure Department (CHID) welcomes Torrance Bryant as its newest Housing Specialist, joining the department on July 27, 2026.

Torrance brings a diverse background in mentoring, administrative support, and education to the CHID team. Prior to joining CHID, Torrance served as a Senior Peer Mentor, Peer Mentor, Office Assistant, Chemistry Teaching Assistant, and Chemistry Tutor. Torrance holds a B.A. in Business Administration** and has experience in data entry, data presentation, and marketing.

As a Housing Specialist, Torrance will support CHID's housing programs through applicant data entry, communication with Chapters, housing assessments, and mapping home locations. Torrance will initially support the department's ARPA housing efforts, helping ensure accurate information and effective coordination throughout the program.

A member of the Houck Chapter community, Torrance was drawn to CHID by a desire to help the community. One of Torrance's goals is to support the team's effectiveness while contributing to improvements in how housing application information is organized and managed. A longer-term goal is to develop a database to improve the management of housing applications.

Outside of work, Torrance enjoys crocheting and reading. CHID is pleased to welcome Torrance to the team and looks forward to the knowledge, skills, and community commitment Torrance brings to the department.



Infrastructure Grant Session Strengthens Partnership Between New Mexico and the Navajo Nation

Gallup, NM
July 16, 2026

Representatives from the Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico, tribal programs, and infrastructure partners gathered on July 16, 2026, at the University of New Mexico–Gallup Calvin Hall Center to participate in the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) Infrastructure Grants Session with the Navajo Nation. The all-day session focused on strengthening collaboration and providing information on infrastructure funding opportunities available to tribal communities.



The program opened with welcoming remarks from IAD Cabinet Secretary Josett Monette, followed by presentations on New Mexico Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund (CO/TIF) programs, including funding requirements, project development, and legal considerations.

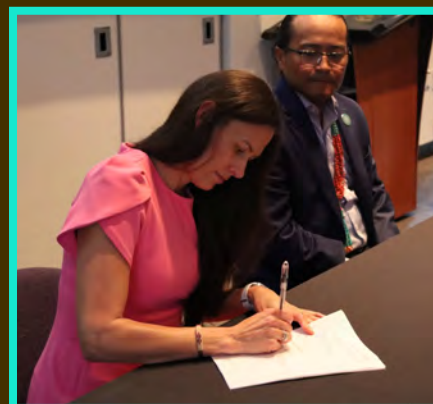
Following lunch, attendees witnessed an Intergovernmental Grant Agreements Signing Ceremony, and highlighting the continued partnership between the Navajo Nation and the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. Navajo Nation and Cabinet Secretary Josett Monette signed and executed 24 Navajo Nation intergovernmental grant agreements (IGAs) totaling \$11,564,700. The funding will advance critical infrastructure projects that will benefit 54 Navajo

communities across New Mexico, supporting improvements to essential public facilities, utilities, transportation, and other community infrastructure.

The afternoon session featured a presentation on the Navajo Nation 164 Process by Division of Community Development Director Candice Yazzie and CPMD Manager Michele Peterson. Their presentation outlined the project approval process and emphasized coordination, accountability, and efficient project implementation.

The Infrastructure Grants Session provided valuable guidance for tribal leaders, chapter officials, and project managers seeking to secure funding and successfully deliver community infrastructure projects that improve the quality of life for Navajo Nation residents. The signing of the grant agreements demonstrates the strong partnership between the State of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation and their shared commitment to investing in infrastructure that strengthens communities and supports long-term economic development throughout the region.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3U4ijso> and <https://bit.ly/4yQdcfx>



July 2026 Highlights

The Administrative Services Centers (ASC), under the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, continued to provide technical assistance, guidance, and operational support to the Navajo Nation's 110 Chapter Houses through our Central Office in Window Rock and eight local Administrative Services Center offices.

During July, ASC staff remained committed to assisting Chapters with the implementation and administration of the Five Management System, ensuring compliance with Navajo Nation laws, policies, and procedures governing Chapter operations and the administration of Navajo Nation-allocated funding. In addition to providing daily technical assistance, staff focused on preparing Chapters for Fiscal Year 2027 budget development and Fiscal Year 2026 year-end closeout activities.

Technical Assistance & Operational Support

Throughout July 2026, ASC staff conducted technical assistance sessions, trainings, chapter meetings, site visits, budget consultations, administrative support, and compliance reviews across the Navajo Nation. With all eight local Administrative Services Center offices now fully staffed, each office continued providing consistent, on-site support to its assigned Chapters.

Each local office is staffed with one Senior Programs and Projects Specialist (SPPS), one Administrative Services Officer (ASO), and one Office Specialist (OS), allowing ASC to provide timely and comprehensive assistance while strengthening relationships with local Chapter officials and staff.

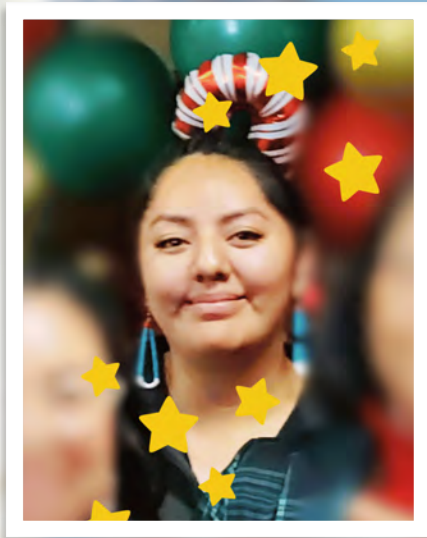
Reported technical assistance activities included:

- Fiscal Year 2027 budget planning and budget work sessions
- Fiscal Year 2026 year-end closeout preparation
- Five Management System implementation and compliance
- Chapter budgeting and financial management
- Administrative policies and procedures
- Chapter planning, meetings, and committee support
- Site visits and technical consultations
- Financial reporting and compliance assistance
- Preparing for FY2027 Budget Development

A major focus during July was assisting Chapters in preparing for the Fiscal Year 2027 budgeting process. ASC staff coordinated budget planning meetings and work sessions with Chapter officials to review funding priorities, budget requirements, and applicable Navajo Nation policies. These collaborative efforts are intended to help Chapters develop balanced budgets that support local priorities while maintaining compliance with established financial management requirements.

At the same time, staff also began working with Chapters to prepare for Fiscal Year 2026 closeout activities by providing guidance on financial reconciliation, reporting requirements, and year-end administrative procedures to help ensure a smooth transition into the new fiscal year.

With all Administrative Services Center offices fully staffed and actively engaged in the field, ASC remains committed to delivering responsive, consistent, and professional support that strengthens Chapter governance, financial accountability, and effective local government operations throughout the Navajo Nation.



ASC STAR OF THE MONTH

Darilyn Yazzie, Office Assistant

The Administrative Service Centers (ASC) proudly recognizes Darilyn Yazzie, Office Assistant, as the Star of the Month for her dedication, professionalism, and continued commitment to supporting ASC operations during a demanding and busy budget season.

Darilyn is recognized for successfully navigating the ongoing challenges associated with chapter timesheets while maintaining a high level of organization, responsiveness, and attention to detail. Her ability to manage these responsibilities, address issues as they arise, and provide consistent support has been instrumental in helping ensure that critical administrative functions continue to move forward efficiently.

During this especially busy budget season, Darilyn has demonstrated reliability and commitment by “holding down the fort” and helping maintain continuity in daily office operations. Her willingness to take on responsibilities, assist staff, and remain focused during periods of increased workload reflects her strong work ethic and dedication to the ASC team.

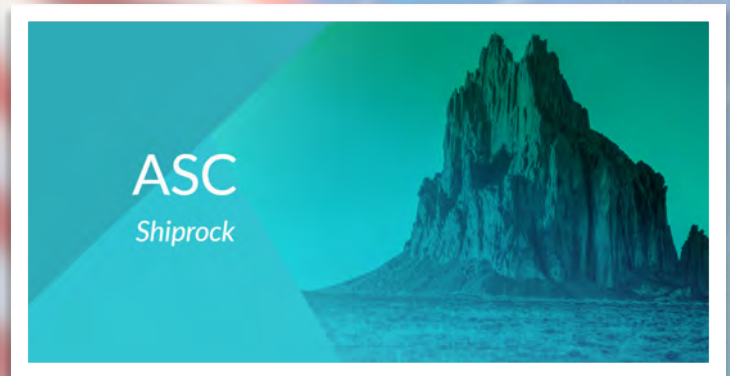
Darilyn’s contributions may often occur behind the scenes, but her work plays an important role in supporting employees, chapters, and the overall success of the Administrative Service Centers. Her dependability, positive attitude, and commitment to service are greatly appreciated.

Congratulations, Darilyn Yazzie, on being recognized as the ASC Star of the Month! Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and for helping keep ASC operations moving forward during this busy budget season.

ASC GO-GETTERS OF THE MONTH

Elizabeth Washburne and Team

The Administrative Service Centers (ASC) proudly recognizes Elizabeth Washburne and her Team as the Go GETTERS of the Month for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to providing timely and efficient support to the chapters within her assigned service area.



Elizabeth is recognized for her ability to lead and work collaboratively with her subordinate staff, Tanya Henderson and Charlene Begay, to complete and process chapter budgets in a timely and efficient manner. Through their teamwork, strong communication, organization, and commitment to meeting deadlines, the team has helped ensure that budget documents are reviewed, completed, and processed without unnecessary delays.

The accomplishments of this team reflect a shared commitment to excellence. Elizabeth’s leadership, combined with the hard work and support of Tanya and Charlene, has contributed to the efficient processing of budgets and the timely delivery of services throughout their assigned area. Their ability to work together, support one another, and maintain a high level of productivity demonstrates the value of collaboration within the Administrative Service Centers.

Elizabeth, Tanya, and Charlene exemplify professionalism, accountability, teamwork, and dedication to the communities and chapters they serve. Their collective efforts contribute to the continued success and effectiveness of ASC operations.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Washburne, Tanya Henderson, and Charlene Begay for being recognized as the ASC Star of the Month Team! Thank you for your outstanding work, teamwork, and continued commitment to ASC.

Welcoming Our New Team Members

The Administrative Services Centers is pleased to announce the addition and promotion of staff members who joined their respective local offices on **July 27, 2026**.

Congratulations to **Carmen Martin** on her promotion to **Community Services Coordinator (CSC)** for the Pinedale Chapter. Carmen previously served as an **Accounts Maintenance Specialist (AMS)** and now assumes the leadership role of overseeing chapter administrative services.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new **Accounts Maintenance Specialists**:

- **Veronica Tso – Huerfano Chapter**
- **Eric Stash – Shiprock Chapter**
- **Mary Chee – Crystal Chapter**

We are excited to have these dedicated professionals as part of our team and look forward to the knowledge, experience, and commitment they bring in supporting Navajo Nation chapters.

ASC Crownpoint Monthly Staff & Officials Meeting – July 29, 2026

The ASC Crownpoint team—Heather Yazzie-Kinlacheeny (SPPS), Cecelia Toledo (ASO), and Adrianna Carviso (OS)—hosted the July Monthly Staff & Officials Meeting at the Navajo Tech Hospitality Center in Crownpoint, New Mexico. The meeting featured a presentation by Charmayne Eriacho, Project Manager with the Capital Project Management Department, on the New Mexico Capital Outlay Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) process. Additional updates included DCD reporting requirements, email security awareness regarding scams and phishing, DCD newsletter submission deadlines, NNOSHA training and building safety, Dayforce holiday updates, and information on the Declaration of Emergency related to flooding, infrastructure damage, and utility outages. Participants also discussed recommendations for future training topics and upcoming budget work sessions.

Story and Photo Submission by Heather Yazzie-Kinlacheeny, Crownpoint ASC SPPS



ASC Crownpoint Outreach at the 48th Annual Eastern Navajo Fair – Elders Day

On Thursday, July 23, 2026, the ASC Crownpoint team represented the Administrative Services Centers at an information booth during Elders Day at the 48th Annual Eastern Navajo Fair. Staff welcomed fair attendees, shared information about the Administrative Services Centers and the services provided to Navajo Nation chapters, and promoted recruitment opportunities for current department vacancies. The team also captured photos of the Elders Fashion Show, helping showcase and celebrate the event while highlighting the department's community engagement efforts.

Story and Photo submission by Adrianna Carviso, Crownpoint ASC OS



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

Ft. Defiance ASC Hosts July Staff Meeting at Tohatchi Chapter

On July 23, 2026, the Ft. Defiance Administrative Services Center (ASC) staff, led by Patricia Begay (SPPS), Jammie Billiman (OS), and Laci Begay (OS), facilitated their monthly staff meeting at the Tohatchi Chapter. The meeting provided an opportunity for staff to strengthen teamwork through a team-building activity and receive a Risk Management presentation from UES focused on workplace safety and risk awareness.

Staff also participated in an open discussion covering administrative reminders, including payroll deadlines and required documentation for Gaming Fund budgets. The meeting reinforced collaboration among ASC staff while supporting consistent communication, operational efficiency, and continued technical assistance to the chapters served by the Ft. Defiance ASC.

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



Coyote Canyon Chapter

On 7/29/26, the Coyote Canyon Chapter House hosted a Veterans Stand Down. Around 100 people from District 14 attended the event to support and honor our veterans.

Veterans and community members received hygiene kits, and there were plenty of clothes and backpacks available for those who needed them. Throughout the event, there was a large selection of pastries for everyone to enjoy, and lunch was served later in the day.

The event also included a raffle with several prizes, including back-to-school kits. It was a great day that brought the communities of District 14 together while showing appreciation and support for our veterans.

*Story written by:
Camilla Elsayed
Student Employee
Coyote Canyon Chapter*

Photo Credit: Kent Grantsen, Coyote Canyon Community



Tolani Lake Chapter

Tolani Lake Chapter hosted Red Feather and a group of volunteers from California constructing Wood sheds for some of our community members.

Photos and Chapter updated submitted by Priscilla Lane, Tolani Lake Chapter Community Services Coordinator.



Bodaway/Gap

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Meet & Greet

Before the Primary Election, the Chapter hosted Meet & Greet for the candidates running for Navajo Nation President and Council Delegate. 6 delegate candidates, & 8 president candidates attended.

Bike the Rez / Food Demos

The chapter held six events with the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program. Bike The Rez and Food Demos on how to make traditional recipes. These events have had the most participation all Summer! We have more coming up in the Fall.



Echo Cliffs Healing & Wellness 2026

Healing & Wellness

This year we had the first Echo Cliffs Healing & Wellness Gathering. It covered topics of Mental Health Awareness, Suicide Prevention, Addiction and recovery. We had speakers from across the nation join us to connect. We hope to continue this event into next year.

Monthly Community Newsletter



Photos provided by Chapter Staff: Kara Clah

Oljato Chapter kicked off the month with a vibrant celebration of Navajo culture. Community members gathered to learn the art of kneel-down bread, exploring creative recipes and sharing garden-fresh ingredients. The aroma of tradition filled the air as participants also dived into beading—crafting dazzling earrings and experimenting with loom techniques, turning simple materials into works of art.

Community spirit thrived through dynamic outreach programs led by the Special Diabetes Program-Kayenta, Community Housing & Infrastructure Department (CHID), Navajo Nation Veterans Program, Department of Health Education, Indian Health Services Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, Office of Dine Youth, and Special Care Home, Inc. Highlights included the Housing Improvement Program (HIP), Veterans Housing Education sessions, an engaging sanitation workshop, a 3 on 3 basketball tournament for the youths, and an exciting application drive—giving residents a chance to claim a free water dispenser from the Water Project 2026.

A highlight of July was the Oljato Chapter's exhilarating Hozho Nashasdlíi Fun Run, co-hosted with the Navajo Health Education Program. More than 250 runners and walkers filled the day with energy, each receiving a commemorative t-shirt and nutritious snacks. The festivities featured a lively mini health fair, inviting everyone to meet local health services and discover the many wellness resources offered by each department.

Behind the scenes, chapter staff poured their dedication into community wellness—assisting at walk events and tackling hands-on community projects: from drywall repairs and moving livestock corrals to nurturing cornfields and helping families weatherize their homes against the summer sun and monsoon rains. Special care was given to elders, ensuring safe and sturdy entrance steps and heartfelt support with every task.



Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Providing Traditional Foods for Indigenous Children

With Bidii Baby Foods, sixth-generation Navajo farmer Zachariah Ben is growing crops for future generations.

July 29, 2026

By Zachariah

We didn't set out to spark a revolution. My wife, Mary, and I just wanted to feed our first child fresh, local, culturally significant foods instead of all the processed, packaged stuff that's so readily available on the Navajo Nation.

I grew up farming near Shiprock, New Mexico, alongside my dad, but my understanding of the importance of staples like corn, beans, and squash changed after our son came into our lives in March 2021. When Yabiito Yehoshzho, meaning "water of the sky," was born, so too was Bidii Baby Foods—one of the country's only Indigenous baby food companies.

When we became pregnant during the pandemic, my wife and I realized we were no longer just fending for ourselves during a time when even toilet paper was scarce. There was this moment when we asked ourselves, "What is our child going to eat?"

As we delved into the realm of baby food—my wife has worked in public health—we saw how heavily processed the leading baby food brands are. There wasn't a healthy organic version available on the reservation, which is a USDA-recognized food desert with only 13 grocery stores across more than 27,000 square miles. We realized we were going to have to do it ourselves.

I'm a sixth-generation farmer, and I learned a lot of traditional ecological knowledge from my dad. But until we had Yabiito, I really hadn't thought about these heritage foods for everyday eating; I saw them as cash crops and ceremonial foods.

The year he was born, we started farming for ourselves. We dedicated that first season to our first child. We like to joke that Yabiito is our first human case study, because that first season was really the point of our genesis as Bidii. Along the way, we recognized that the most fulfilling act we can do as parents is to have our child grow up not just eating these traditional foods but helping farm them, too.

We became determined to normalize consistent access to healthy traditional foods so we could shape our children's palates and improve health outcomes—not just for our family, but for other families on the reservation, too.

Expanding the Options



Zachariah Ben (Diné), co-founder and owner of Bidii Baby Foods, with his son, Yabiito, in his New Mexico corn field. He and his family grow a range of crops for the business and for local schools, childcare facilities, food banks, and eldercare facilities. (Photo credit: Vernan Kee)

Over the years, we've grown all sorts of corn (including white, yellow, blue, and green), summer and winter squash, watermelon, cantaloupe, casaba melons, beans, and amaranth.

With our corn, we follow an ancestral Diné process. After harvesting it, we steam it in underground pits for 12 hours (using local wood and a little water to create a natural pressure cooker) and then dehydrate it on drying racks for a week. We ramped up after that first year and are now producing about two tons of dehydrated corn, cornmeal, and corn-based cereals annually.

Finding Our Markets

There's been a lot of demand for our products from the very beginning, but selling direct to consumers has always been challenging for us. Farming on the reservation is really complicated due to water rights, outdated irrigation infrastructure, jurisdictional issues, and the bureaucracy and nepotism that runs rampant across the Navajo Nation.

Over the years, we've had requests from Whole Foods and Trader Joe's to stock our product and even from Shark Tank to pitch on the show. But at that time, we weren't able to secure water, so we couldn't guarantee a supply.

In our third year, we learned about the New Mexico Grown program, a state-funded initiative that supports local farmers, ranchers, and producers with food safety training, inspection, and technical assistance to help them sell

There's no publicly accessible, FDA-registered commercial kitchen on the Navajo Nation, nor are there sufficient food safety regulations, enforcement, and resources in place to help Navajo farmers and food producers obtain necessary certification for retail and institutional sales options.

From where we lived near Shiprock, the nearest commercial kitchen available for lease was off the reservation in Gallup, New Mexico, which is about two hours away. We would grow, harvest, steam, dry, and clean our crops, then take them to the facility, where we would mill them down and package them.

That's how we were able to obtain a food manufacturing permit through the state of New Mexico. Every other day for four years, we would make the four-hour roundtrip drive. I had to get my truck transmission rebuilt because of the mileage and the amount of food I was hauling back and forth.

But the effort has been worth it. Through New Mexico Grown, we've been able to feed tens of thousands of kids a year in addition to our own. In 2023, we welcomed our daughter,

READ MORE AT:

<https://bit.ly/4xpQnhn>

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Since the 1960s, Marilou Schultz Has Merged Diné Weaving and Digital Worlds

BY LUA VOLLAARD

JUNE 24, 2026 12:24PM

Weaving may be the world's oldest way of reproducing information—and computing is poised to become its final one. Across millennia, surprising similarities persist: both media operate on binary logic (over/under, on/off), are intrinsically based on counting, and are characterized by patterns that emerge structurally, not on the surface. In fact, the first automated machine, the Jacquard machine, was a loom, and weaving was a favorite metaphor employed by Ada Lovelace while she was working with early computers and algorithms. Even language betrays this lineage: etymologically, before “text” became “textual,” it was “textile.”

Diné weaver Marilou Schultz has been probing the harmonies and dissonances between these technologies since the 1960s. Her first retrospective opens this week at the Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College in upstate New York, where curator Candice Hopkins has brought together some 55 works, threading them together with contextual archival materials. The show highlights Schultz's range as a weaver, from her command of traditional styles to her penchant for formal experimentation, and hones in on one subject that has preoccupied her practice over the last thirty years: computer chips.

Growing up in Leupp on the Navajo Nation, Schultz started weaving at just five years old. Her mother and grandmothers were weavers, and looms were a staple in the home. “In Navajo, they say, you meet your elders, you connect with them through the loom,” she told me this spring. Moving to Mesa and working as a math teacher allowed Schultz to continue weaving outside of financial need: “I had my salary, and from there on, I started experimenting and playing with the yarn, the dyes, the wool, then the looms themselves eventually.” She experimented with styles and techniques, finding plant-based dyes and keeping notes on their interaction with different metal containers. And while materials and their sources have changed—during Schultz's lifetime, a flock of Churro sheep was reintroduced to her family, producing a lustrous, traditionally undyed wool—techniques have remained the same for generations.

Honoring the way Schultz's weaving developed through intergenerational mentorship and knowledge transfer, the retrospective contains works by four generations of weavers in her family, including her mother, Martha Gorman Schultz, who passed away last year at the age of 93. The show includes her final weaving, a Germantown-style rug made with wool gifted to her by Melissa Cody, the acclaimed contemporary weaver and Marilou's cousin.

An early rug sets the stage for Schultz's experiments with form: Untitled (late 1990s) breaks up a third-phase wearing blanket, a Navajo design style from the period 1860–68, into a triptych. Schultz split its geometric patterns across a center panel and wings. “My thinking was that if fashion can change, why can't Navajo wearing blankets?” Other works challenge weaving's confinement to the warp: for a series of rugs realized in 2016–17, Schultz invented a new form of loom that allowed her to create three-dimensional shapes out of traditional wedge-weave patterns. This square loom, transformed into a cylinder, is inspired by the spinning of the globe and the cycles of the seasons.

By 1995, Schultz's willingness to remix the conventions of Diné tradition led to an unexpected commission: Louis Baca, a Pueblo man working for Intel, approached her at the Heard Indian Market, where he was looking for a weaver who might take on an unusual request. On the occasion of the “Weaving and Technology” theme of Intel's annual conference, held to celebrate the success of its 1993 Pentium chip, she was asked to weave a design based on the microchip. Always eager to marry tradition to experimentation, Schultz took on the request.

Along the way, Schultz's work has caught the eye of an unusual group: online communities of microelectronics hobbyists. Exchanging images with these enthusiasts, Schultz often picks her subjects from among their references, modifying them to integrate Diné cultural elements as she goes. Lately, she has been prolific: GEO X (2025) is currently on view at the New Museum in New York, and GEO XX (2026) at the Museum Tinguely in Basel.



Photo Gabby Usinger. Courtesy the artist and Jessica Silverman, San Francisco.

These online collaborations have enabled Schultz to think more deeply about how weaving is a technology. The computer-history blogger Ken Shirriff has published interactive maps diagramming her rugs, pointing out the places where bond pads, voltage dividers, and discharge pins are depicted. Recent works have started to incorporate metallic threads, forming conductive networks: Popular Chip (2025), based on a best-selling timer microchip, was the first work in which Schultz used aluminum and copper threads in her weaving.

As Schultz incorporates hardware, a productive friction arises: the pace of the technology she depicts is at odds with the intergenerational technology of Diné weaving. Microchip manufacturing is governed by a paradigm known as Moore's law, which in practice ensures the obsolescence of any given chip in 18-month cycles. Diné weaving uses intergenerational knowledge transfer to update well-established traditions. And while chip diagrams quickly age out of their microscopic, high-technology medium, Schultz's microchip rugs take the components on which our world operates and draw out their intricacies and beauty.

In Schultz's work, Navajo women, under recognized for their past efforts, are part of our collective technological futures. At 71 years old, she is set to retire from teaching at Mesa Public Schools this year and dedicate herself to weaving full-time. She is still excited by the possibility of tapestry changing convention: a slow process, using ancient tools. She is especially keen to experiment with integrating music into her next projects: “It would be as though the rug was talking to you through sounds. Before the loom, lings were our first technology.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.artnews.com/art-in-america/features/marilou-schultz-candice-hopkins-hessel-museum-dine-weaving-1234790145/>

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Navajo Nation veterans receive new homes

Three Navajo veterans and their families received the keys to newly constructed 1,344-square-foot homes in Nazlini and Low Mountain.

By Yolanda Garcia-Espinoza
10:30 AM PDT June 3, 2026

In an effort to improve living conditions for Navajo veterans, three Diné veterans and their families received the keys to their new homes on Tuesday.

Three Navajo veterans and their families received the keys to newly constructed 1,344-square-foot homes in Nazlini and Low Mountain, each with utilities and appliances.

The Navajo Nation Council allocated \$50 million in funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to build homes for veterans.

"Through strategic allocations of ARPA funding, the Navajo Nation Council continues to expand access to safe, quality, and permanent housing for its people, including veterans who have served our country," said the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, Crystalyne Curley.

BITCO Corporation built the homes and committed to providing 80 homes total to veterans.

"With tremendous heart and dedication, the BITCO team proudly partnered with Navajo leadership to honor and serve our veterans," said BITCO founder and CEO Jeremiah Bitsui.



The initiative started with the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the funding approval of former Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. The commitment to support veteran housing continues with the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4fLSPr6>

RezRoads Rescue: A lifeline for dogs and cats on the Navajo Nation

By Amber Neate Special to Navajo-Hopi Observer

Jun 30, 2026

Chantal Wadsworth and her partner, Vernan Kee, have embarked on a special mission. Wadsworth is the co-founder and president of RezRoads Rescue, a nonprofit animal organization that aims to educate, advocate and assist Navajo families and their pets. RezRoads Rescue helps rejected and neglected stray dogs and cats on the Navajo Nation in Shiprock, New Mexico.

Wadsworth and Kee are Navajo and were born and raised on the reservation. The couple moved away from the reservation and lived in San Diego after Kee concluded his military service in the Marine Corps. After living in California for seven years, they decided to return to the reservation and buy their own plot of land. Wadsworth and Kee both worked remotely, giving them an opportunity for van life and travel throughout the reservation.

"We really wanted to explore the different communities and landmarks," Wadsworth said.

"While we were traveling the reservation, we saw the dire situation with the stray and abandoned dogs. Basically, you see them everywhere. They are at gas stations, on the side of the road or in grocery store parking lots."

The couple immediately felt called to help. There needed to be a change and a voice for the voiceless.

RezRoads Rescue was founded in 2021 and became an official nonprofit in 2023. The organization began tracking its numbers three years ago and has since saved 3,000 dogs and cats on the reservation.

The couple has outdoor kennels and insulated, air-conditioned sheds with flooring to house the animals on their property. They recently received a grant that allowed them to get concrete foundations for their kennels. The team has also dedicated a room inside their own home for small puppies that are 4 weeks old or younger and need to be bottle-fed.



READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/4w6jBR2>

One of Wadsworth's favorite rescue success stories is Acorn, a feral dog that had been dumped in the mountains along with seven other dogs. She was the first to be trapped and was terrified of humans. Acorn underwent a remarkable transformation. Wadsworth and Kee worked with her for four months and watched her gradually develop confidence and playfulness. They decided to adopt her and she is still with them now.

Bulletin Board

Wyoming People: International Model Grew Up On Reservations Without Running Water

Jackie Dorothy
July 26, 2026

Zariah Whiteplume grew up without running water or much electricity on the Wind River and Navajo reservations. This summer, she was hoop dancing and

modeling in Tokyo. "I want to come back to my community and engage with the youth," she said.

In the early 2000s, Zariah Whiteplume recalls how she would have to go to the "water hole" on the Navajo Reservation just so her family could wash dishes and have water to drink.

"I remember visiting my great-grandmother in New Mexico and we barely had any electricity," Whiteplume said. "We had no running water, and it's so crazy that we used to go in an outhouse, and haul water."

Whiteplume, 22, has known poverty all her life in two places: The Navajo and Wind River reservations. The experiences have led her on a quest to make life better for both her tribes, the Northern Arapaho and Diné.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4x15loF>



Navajo Nation Holds 2026 Primary Election

The Navajo Nation held its 2026 Primary Election on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, giving registered Navajo voters the opportunity to participate in the selection of candidates for the November General Election. The Navajo Election Administration had certified 123 candidates for the primary election.

Voter participation in the primary was reported in the 20–39 percent range, reflecting the percentage of registered voters who cast ballots. The election included voting opportunities leading up to Election Day, with in-person early voting available from June 23 through July 17.



The 2026 General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The primary marks an important step in the election cycle as voters prepare to consider the candidates advancing to the November election.

For official election information, voters can visit the [Navajo Election Administration website](<https://bit.ly/4fZuePU>).

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Positions

Naanish aa'idaat'éhigíí

Administrative Services Centers

Community Services Coordinator	Red Valley, AZ	\$46,562.40	8/4/2026
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Capital Projects Management Department

Senior Accountant	Window Rock, AZ	\$61,763.04	8/12/2026
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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'

“Every day may not be good,
but there’s something
good in every day.”

— Alice Morse Earle

dear diary,



Today I shined extremely bright, it was great, people were sweating, smelled terrible and were angry. I cannot wait to do it tomorrow.

- sun

Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

A Road Trip Across the Vacation Economy

Start Your Summer With a New Infographic Highlighting Travel and Recreation Revenue Across the Nation

July 14, 2026

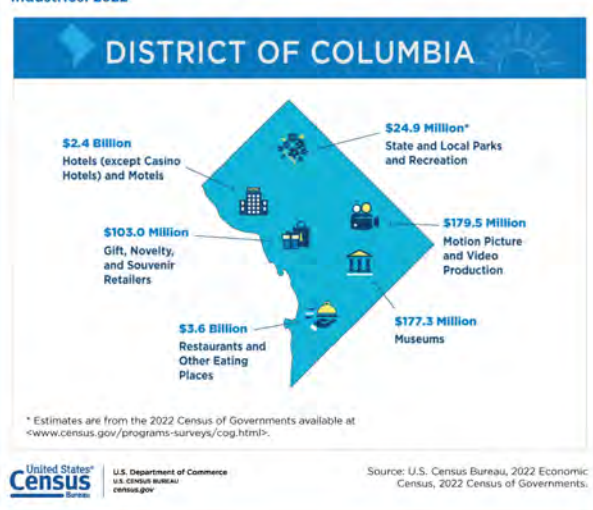
Written by: Adam Grundy

The summer road trip is classic Americana. Every year, sightseers cross the country to visit amusement parks, museums, restaurants, gift shops, hotels and more.

Here we provide you with an economic travelogue to four tourist hotspots: California, Florida, Nevada and Washington, D.C.

We begin our journey with a new infographic that highlights the revenue estimates from recreation-related industries in these destinations, according to the 2022 Economic Census and Census of Governments data, the most recent stats available.

Figure 1.
Estimated Revenue of District of Columbia's Recreation-Related Industries: 2022



Washington, D.C.

The start of your virtual vacation is in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

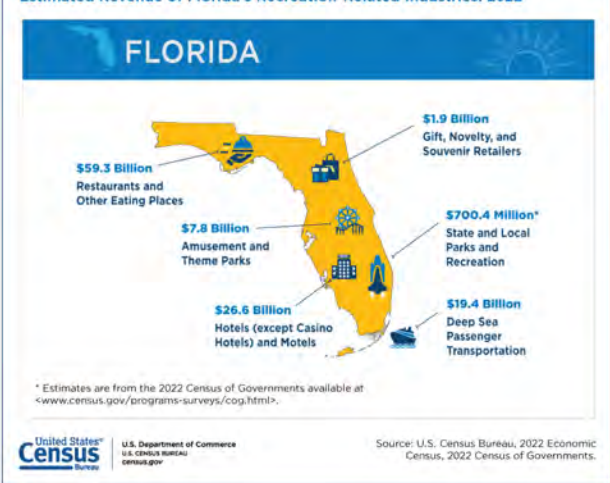
You could visit one of the many Museums in the district, which brought in a total of \$177.3 million in revenue in 2022.

When you're done perusing the exhibits, you might explore one of the nearby state and local parks and recreation areas. D.C.'s state and local parks generated \$24.9 million in revenue in 2022.

Florida

Next, you head south to Florida for a visit to one of the Sunshine State's many

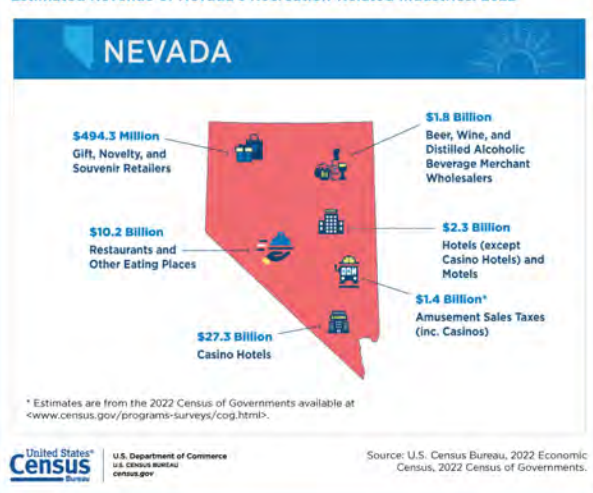
Figure 2.
Estimated Revenue of Florida's Recreation-Related Industries: 2022



Amusement and Theme Parks, which brought in \$7.8 billion in revenues in 2022 (Figure 2).

Upon your exit, you'll likely walk through a Gift, Novelty, and Souvenir Retailer. These shops generated \$1.9 billion in revenue for Florida in 2022.

Figure 3.
Estimated Revenue of Nevada's Recreation-Related Industries: 2022



Nevada

You hit the road again, leaving the waters of Florida for the high desert of Nevada.

Feeling lucky, you visit one of the Silver State's many Casino Hotels, which in 2022 made \$27.3 billion in revenue (Figure 3).

Gambling is hungry work, so you grab a bite at one of the nearby Restaurants and Other Eating Places. These establishments generated \$10.2 billion in revenue for Nevada in 2022.

California

The road trip is nearly over. Before you head home, you decide to go all the way to the Pacific Ocean with a visit to California.

Figure 4.
Estimated Revenue of California's Recreation-Related Industries: 2022



You tour some of the Motion Picture and Video Production studios that generated \$59.0 billion in revenue in 2022 for the state.

The next day, you leave the studio backlots and head up to California's Wine Country for a tasting or two to toast your journey's end. California Wineries brought in \$19.3 billion in revenue in 2022.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2026/07/vacation-economy-road-trip.html>

Consumption of Arts and Entertainment¹

Household Trends and Outlook Pulse Survey (HTOPS)—
March 2026 Collection



IN THE LAST 4 WEEKS

50 MILLION

ATTENDED LIVE MUSIC, DANCE, OR
THEATER PERFORMANCE IN PERSON

IN THE LAST 4 WEEKS

46 MILLION

WENT TO THE MOVIES



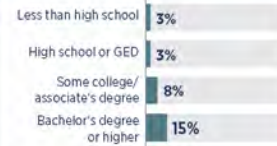
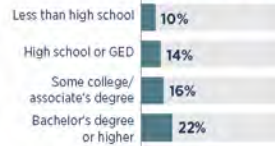
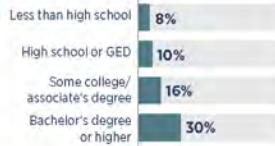
IN THE LAST 4 WEEKS

23 MILLION

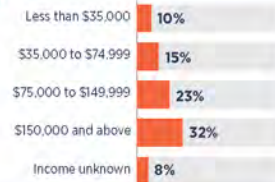
ATTENDED AN ART EXHIBIT



Share Within Each Education Level



Share Within Each Household Income Level



¹Among the total U.S. population age 18 years and older.

Note: The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data (Project No. P-7536034 and Disclosure Review Board [DRB] approval number: CBDRB-FY26-0255).

America on the Road

Estimated U.S. Sales, Value of Shipments, or Revenue for Select Automotive Industries in 2023



Automobile Dealers

\$1,377.6 billion NAICS 4411



Motor Vehicle Supplies and New Parts Merchant Wholesalers

\$223.6 billion NAICS 42312



General Automotive Repair

\$75.1 billion NAICS 811111



Passenger Car Rental and Leasing

\$60.5 billion NAICS 53211

Note: Data are based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Data are not adjusted for price changes and are representative of employer firms (those with paid employees). These statistics are estimated from a sample survey and are subject to sampling variability, as well as nonsampling error. Estimates of sampling variability are measured using coefficients of variation (CVs) which can be found in the Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES) [data tables](#). Information on survey methodology can be found in the [technical documentation](#) section of the AIES webpage. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data (Project No. P-7529180, Disclosure Review Board [DRB] approval number: CBDRB-FY25-0362).



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!

REVIEW TITLE 26 – LOCAL GOVERNANCE ACT



§ 2004. Zoning; Community Based Land Use Plan; Land Use Variations



The Navajo Nation Local Governance Act specifies that political subdivisions known as Chapters may establish **community based land use plans**, adopt their own **zoning ordinances**, and **enforce those ordinances**.



ORDINANCE PROCESS

1



Per 2001 Ordinance Procedure
Draft Ordinances have seven (7) requirements such as having a number, title, preamble, rules and regulations governing enforcement of the ordinance, etc.

2



Ordinance is read in both English + Navajo at two (2) consecutive chapter meetings.

3



Voting on the zoning ordinance occurs at the 3rd Chapter Meeting.

4



Ordinance must be posted for a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the vote.

5



Approval requires a simple majority of the votes cast at a regular or special chapter meeting.



Some ordinances require a ballot vote but zoning ordinances **do not require a ballot vote**.

COMMON ZONING DISTRICTS



RESIDENTIAL (R):

Areas designated for single-family homes, apartments, and other housing types.



COMMERCIAL (C):

Districts for businesses, retail shops, offices, and other commercial activities.



INDUSTRIAL (I):

Zones for manufacturing, warehouses, and other industrial operations.



MIXED-USE (MU):

Areas that combine residential and commercial uses to create walkable neighborhoods with different functions.



CLAN CLUSTERS:

Clusters of homes in one area.



Gallup ASC and DCD Senior Planner hosts the **Zoning and Ordinance orientation** for LGA Certified Chapters.



CHAPTERS ATTENDED the session at BACA CHAPTER.



For more information please contact:
Senior Planner, L. James
ljames@nndcd.org



(505) 863-7544
Navajo Nation Division of
Community Development



STRONG COMMUNITIES.



OUR LAND.



OUR FUTURE.

TRASH SAFETY TIPS

Keep Our Community Clean & Safe

SAFE DISPOSAL PRACTICES

- Securely bag all trash before disposal.
- Don't overfill: ensure lids close fully
- Seal sharp objects in containers before disposal
- Keep hazardous waste out of regular trash



COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

- Report illegal dumping to officials
- Join community clean-ups
- Recycle and compost to reduce waste



BIN SAFETY

- Set bins on flat surfaces to prevent tipping
- Keep bins away from children.
- Don't climb or play on bins.
- Watch for trucks during service



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



Lyman Tullie
ltullie@nndcd.org
(505)318-6860



Ya'iishjáástsoh



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

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

Norbert Nez, Editor

Denise Copeland, Assistant Editor

Sylvia Jordan, Design Editor

Tia Yazzie, Contributing Writer



Division of Community Development • P.O. Box 1904, Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7182
www.nndcd.org