

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahoonílgíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Bini'anit'ááts'ósi

Díí naltsoos biyi' baach'ida hwiit'aah

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Nít bée hoziníshii...

Did You Know...

Diné Running Is More Than a Sport

For the Diné, running has deep cultural, spiritual, and physical meaning. Traditionally, running at dawn and toward the east is a way of greeting the sunrise and connecting with Diné teachings. Running is also an important part of male and female puberty ceremonies, where participants run farther each day as a teaching about discipline, endurance, growth, and overcoming challenges.

For many Diné runners, every step can carry a connection to culture, family, health, and tradition.

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

Events:

August: Bini'anit'ááts'ósi - 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

September: Bini'anit'ááts'oh - Big Harvest

September 2-11: Buu 250

September 7: Labor Day

September 8-13: Navajo Nation Fair

Grand Opening of the Shiprock First Responders Building

Honoring Service. Strengthening Partnerships. Protecting Communities



SHIPROCK, N.M. — The Shiprock community marked a significant milestone on August 28, 2026, with the grand opening of the new Shiprock First Responders Building. Community members, Navajo Nation leaders, first responders, veterans, chapter officials, project partners, and representatives from the State of New Mexico gathered to celebrate the completion of a major public safety infrastructure project.

The event, held under the theme “Honoring Service. Strengthening Partnerships. Protecting Communities,” recognized the years of planning, advocacy, coordination, funding, and technical work that brought the project from concept to completion.

Development and completion of a dedicated facility to support first responder operations, public safety coordination, emergency preparedness, and community services in the Shiprock area.

Community Benefits

- Strengthens local emergency response capabilities
- Provides improved facilities for public safety personnel
- Supports coordination among emergency service departments
- Enhances preparedness and operational readiness
- Provides a long-term public safety infrastructure investment
- Strengthens partnerships between Navajo Nation, community, and state agencies

A CELEBRATION ROOTED IN TRADITION

The grand opening began with a traditional blessing of the new facility, reflecting the cultural significance of opening a new community resource. The Shiprock Veterans Organization posted the colors, followed by the National Anthem performed by Atsa'biyazhi School Princess Paisley Lewis.

Pastor Wallace Begay of Shiprock Pentecostal delivered the invocation, offering a prayer for the facility, the first responders who will work there, and the communities they serve.



The ceremony provided an opportunity to celebrate not only the physical completion of the building, but also the people whose commitment helped make the project possible.

NAVAJO NATION LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS PUBLIC SAFETY

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren addressed those gathered for the grand opening and recognized the importance of supporting the men and women who provide emergency and public safety services throughout the Navajo Nation.

The President's participation underscored the importance of investing in facilities that support first responders and contribute to the safety, preparedness, and well-being of Navajo communities.

The Shiprock First Responders Building represents a long-term investment in the community and provides a dedicated facility designed to support those who answer the call during emergencies.

RECOGNIZING YEARS OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Dr. Delores Greyeyes delivered remarks recognizing the many individuals and organizations whose efforts contributed to the project over the years.

Special recognition was given to the former Shiprock Planning Committee, including Vivian Tallbull, Sally Yabeny, Cecelia Bibtah, Duane “Chili” Yazzie, Denise Copeland, Joe Smart, and other former committee members. Their involvement, along with the efforts of current and former Council Delegates, Chapter Officials, and Chapter Staff, helped advance the project through years of planning and advocacy dating back to the 1990s: current and former Council Delegates "Chili" Yazzie, Wallace Charley, Leonard Anthony, Pete K. Atcitty, Tom Chee, and Eugenia Charles-Newton, Chapter Officials Raymond John, Debra Yazzie, Loretta John, Nevina Kinlahcheeny, J. Kaibah Begay, Hazel Dayish, and "Chili" Yazzie, and Chapter Staff, Michele Peterson.

The long history of community involvement demonstrates that major infrastructure projects often require sustained commitment over many years. The completion of the First Responders Building is a reflection of that perseverance.

A MULTI-YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENT

The Shiprock First Responders Building was made possible through a combination of New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund, Navajo Nation Sihasin, and New Mexico Capital Outlay funding secured over more than a decade.

The project began with a \$600,000 New Mexico TIF award in 2015, followed by \$1 million in Navajo Nation Sihasin funding in 2018. Subsequent New Mexico Capital Outlay appropriations provided significant additional resources in 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. The project also received \$4,028,700 through the 2025 New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund.

2015 NM TIF	600,000.00
2018 NN Sihasin	1,000,000.00
2020 NM CO	3,000,000.00
2022 NM CO	100,000.00
2023 NM CO	8,600,000.00
2024 NM CO	1,000,000.00
2025 NM CO	1,245,000.00
2025 NM TIF	4,028,700.00



Collectively, the funding provided for the project totals \$19,573,700.

This multi-year investment demonstrates the importance of sustained advocacy, strategic planning, and collaboration in securing funding for major community infrastructure. It also reflects the shared commitment of the Navajo Nation and State of New Mexico to improving public safety facilities.

Project managers for the project: Parsons Corporation

STATE PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Dr. Greyeyes acknowledged the State of New Mexico team, including Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, New Mexico Senators and Representatives, and the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Josett Monette Cabinet Secretary, Jeffery Christianson, CO/TIF Administrator, and former IAD CO/TIF Administrator Lawrence John for their partnership and support. State participation included project funding and technical assistance that helped advance the facility toward completion.





The following New Mexico State Senators: Shannon D. Pinto, William Share, Steve Lanier, and Representatives: Anthony Allison, Joseph Hernandez, Rod Montoya, Mark Duncan, and Meredith Dixon. The project serves as an example of how intergovernmental partnerships can leverage resources and expertise to address infrastructure needs in Navajo communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS COME TOGETHER

The grand opening also highlighted the public safety organizations that will benefit from the new facility.

Representatives from Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Rescue, and the Navajo Police Department participated throughout the ceremony. Sharon Yellowhair, Department of Corrections grant writer, was also among the program speakers.

The participation of multiple public safety departments reinforced the importance of communication and coordination during emergencies. A centralized and dedicated facility provides an opportunity to strengthen those working relationships while supporting the day-to-day needs of first responders.

Public resource booths were also available during the event, allowing community members to learn more about programs and services available to residents.

OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE

The formal program concluded with closing remarks and prayer from Pastors Udell and Heather Elison of Time Has Come Ministries.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony followed, officially marking the opening of the new facility. Representatives from participating public safety departments joined together for the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon.

Community members were then invited inside for an open house and building tours. The tours provided residents with an opportunity to view the new facility and learn more about how it will support first responders serving Shiprock and surrounding communities.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY SAFETY

The completion of the Shiprock First Responders Building represents much more than the construction of a new facility. It represents years of community advocacy, government investment, project coordination, technical work, and partnership.

For first responders, having a dedicated facility supports preparedness and operational readiness. For residents, the project represents an investment in having emergency personnel better positioned to respond when assistance is needed.

The project also demonstrates the importance of partnerships between community leadership, Navajo Nation programs, public safety departments, and state agencies.

Through the combined efforts of Navajo Nation leadership, Division of Public Safety personnel, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, State of New Mexico partners, and community members, a long-standing vision has become a completed community asset.

The Shiprock First Responders Building now stands as a lasting symbol of appreciation for those who serve and as an investment in the safety and resilience of the Shiprock community and surrounding areas.

Honoring Service. Strengthening Partnerships. Protecting Communities.





NAVAJO NATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CYBERSECURITY ALERT

IF YOU DID NOT EXPECT IT — DO NOT CLICK IT. Do not click links, attachments, QR codes, phone numbers, or “Join/Accept” buttons in suspicious messages or calendar invitations.

1. STOP — DO NOT INTERACT

If a suspicious email, link, or calendar invitation appears: do not click it, open attachments, scan its QR code, call a number in the message, or accept/decline the invitation. Take a screenshot if safe to do so.

2. DISCONNECT A SUSPECT COMPUTER

If a user clicked the link, entered a password, downloaded a file, or the computer is behaving unusually, disconnect it from Wi-Fi/Ethernet immediately. Do not reconnect it “to see if it is fixed.” Leave the computer powered on unless IT instructs otherwise so evidence may be preserved.

3. REPORT IT TO CHAPTER IT / DCD IT

Report the incident immediately. Include the affected email address, computer/user, approximate time, screenshot, sender address, and the suspicious message or calendar invite. Do not forward the malicious link to other users.

4. SECURE THE ACCOUNT

If credentials were entered on the suspicious site, change the password from a known-clean device. Use a unique password and enable MFA. IT should review sign-in activity, revoke active sessions/tokens where appropriate, and check for suspicious mailbox rules or forwarding.

5. REMOVE THE THREAT — IT HANDLES THIS

Do not attempt to “clean” a suspected infected computer by repeatedly clicking links, running unknown cleanup tools, or deleting evidence. IT should isolate the device, run approved endpoint/security scans, inspect browser extensions and startup items, apply updates, and determine whether reimaging is required.

6. CHECK FOR SPREAD

The chapter should identify other users who received the same message/invite and any computers where the link was opened. Treat multiple affected users as a security incident, not as separate isolated problems.

7. CALENDAR INVITE RULE

Unexpected calendar invitations can be phishing. Do not use Accept, Decline, Join, or links inside the invitation. In Outlook, report the associated message as phishing/junk when available and delete the invitation without sending a response. Microsoft recommends reporting suspicious messages and avoiding suspicious links.

8. PREVENTION

Keep Windows, Microsoft 365/Outlook, browsers, and security software updated. Use MFA. Never reuse passwords. Verify unexpected requests by calling the person using a known phone number—not a number in the message. Hover over links before clicking when appropriate.

IMPORTANT: This flyer treats the activity as a potential phishing/account-compromise/malware incident. A suspicious link or calendar invite does not by itself prove that malware is installed. IT should confirm the cause and scope before labeling a device infected.

Guidance: Microsoft Support — phishing protection and reporting; CISA — phishing and incident response guidance.

CPMD Update

Nahodishgish Chapter, NM
August 26, 2026



The Nahodishgish Chapter House is now enjoying a new heating and cooling system in its meeting area, providing a more comfortable environment for chapter officials, staff, and community members throughout the year.

The project was procured by the Capital Project Management Department (CPMD) of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development using New Mexico Capital Outlay funds, H2565, in the amount of \$58,729.30. The project vendor was Definite Air, LLC of Winslow, Arizona.



A new rooftop combination heating and cooling unit was installed to provide more efficient, year-round climate control for the meeting area.

The renovation included the removal of the chapter meeting room's existing wall-mounted heaters and the associated gas lines. A

The contract began with the Division of Community Development on January 8, 2026, and was approved on May 22, 2026. Following approval, CPMD issued the Notice to Proceed, allowing the contractor to begin work. On August 26, 2026, Definite Air, LLC successfully completed the removal of the old heating equipment and installation of the new rooftop unit.

Nahodishgish Chapter CSC Silva Morgan and community members are pleased with the completed improvement. The new combination unit will provide both heating and cooling, helping ensure that chapter meetings, community gatherings, and other activities can be held in a comfortable setting regardless of the season.

The project is another example of how New Mexico Capital Outlay funding, CPMD project



management, and local chapter priorities can come together to improve community facilities and enhance services for



Navajo Nation residents.

CPMD recognizes Project Manager Ricky Begay for his leadership and coordination throughout the project.

Good job, Ricky!

CPMD Update

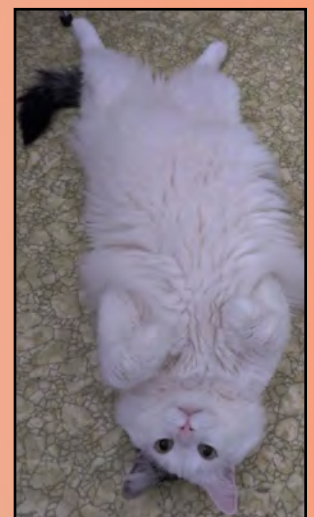
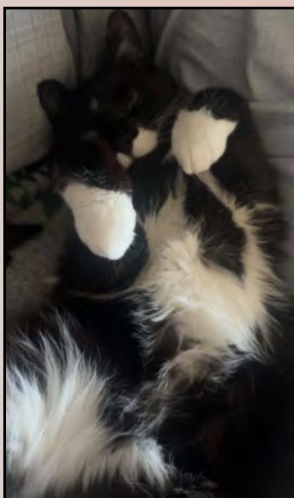
Welcome Carrera Brown, New Project Manager

Hello, I'm Carrera, a new PM with CPMD. I live in Gallup, NM, with my husband, John, and our three cats: Tux, Penny, and Sir Charles Brisket. I would love to have more cats, but I've been told that three is enough.

I grew up in Utah, moved to Indiana for college, and then lived in Phoenix for several years before moving to Gallup. After graduating, I found myself working in the IT field, primarily providing technical support in school environments. I decided to make a career change and earned my Master of Science in Project Management from UNM to help me transition into the field.

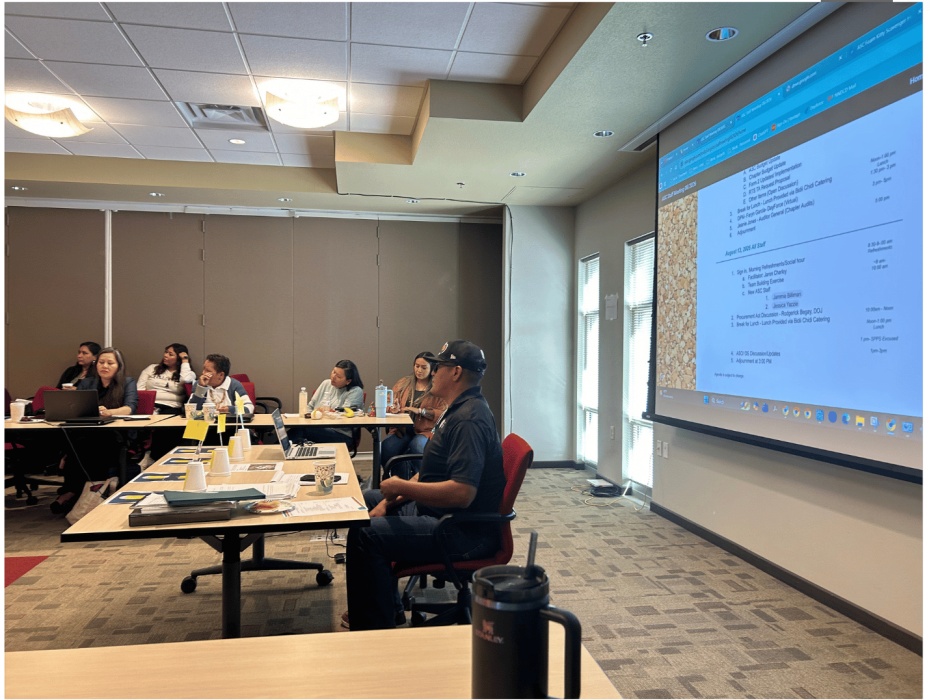
Outside of work, I enjoy crocheting, knitting, gardening, cooking, playing video games, and playing Dungeons & Dragons online with friends. I really enjoy Indian, Thai, Greek, and Japanese food, although I don't have a very high tolerance for spicy foods. Only a little green chile for me! Lately, I've been eating a lot of McDonald's to get the cute new Hello Kitty toys. Of course, I still haven't gotten my favorite character yet.

****Fun fact:**** My grandpa retired from the NN Fleet Management Department. He worked there as an accountant for approximately 30 years.



ASC Department Holds In-Person Staff Meeting

The Administrative Services Centers (ASC) Department held a two-day in-person staff meeting on August 12–13, 2026, bringing together staff from all eight local ASC offices and the Central Window Rock office. The meeting was held at the Navajo Department of Transportation facility in Tse Bonito, New Mexico, and provided an opportunity for staff to connect, collaborate, and discuss department-wide goals and priorities.



The meeting included discussions on ASC and chapter budget updates, Form 2 implementation, the proposed Real Time Solutions (RTS) technical assistance request, and current goals and challenges. Staff also received presentations on DayForce and chapter audits from the Department of Personnel Management and the Office of the Auditor General.

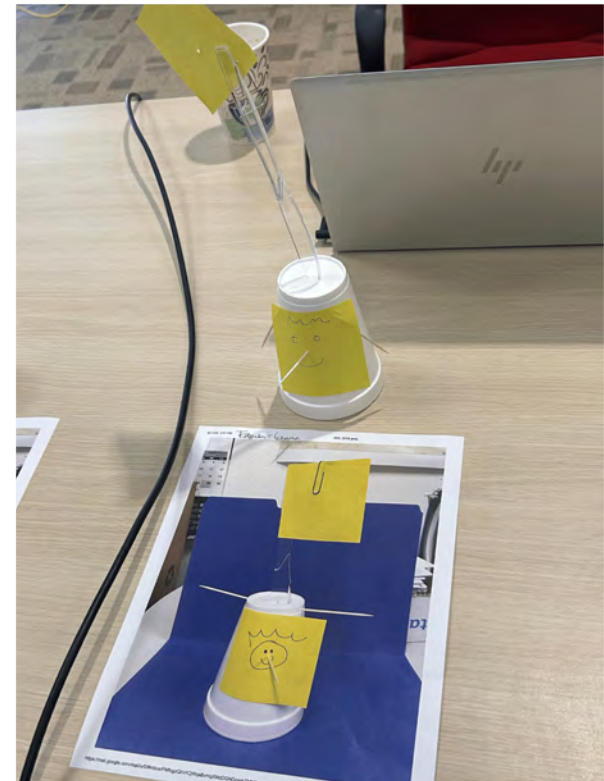
ASC Department Holds In-Person Staff Meeting

The second day brought all ASC staff together for team building, introductions of new staff, and a discussion on the Navajo Nation Procurement Act with Rodgerick Begay from the Department of Justice. ASO and Office Specialist staff also participated in discussions and updates relevant to their roles.

The in-person meeting provided valuable time for the ASC team to strengthen communication, share information, and work together toward providing consistent and effective support to the Navajo Nation chapters we serve.

Team Building & Ice Breakers

Team building was also a highlight of the two-day meeting. On Day 1, staff worked in pairs to recreate a structure using only verbal instructions from a partner who had the reference photo. On Day 2, staff participated in a scavenger hunt using a map of the meeting location to find hidden foam kitties—one of the ASC's new promotional items that will be available for local offices to use at events, resource fairs, meetings, and other community activities.



Three ASC Offices Collaborate for FY2027 Budget Worksession



The Crownpoint, Kayenta, and Fort Defiance Administrative Services Centers (ASC) collaborated to host a three-day FY2027 Budget Worksession at the Nenahnezad Chapter from August 26–28, 2026. The worksession brought together chapter staff and ASC personnel to review proposed chapter budgets, identify community priorities and funding needs, and prepare for the upcoming budget submission process.

The sessions also included discussions on FY2027 allocations, FY2026–2027 carryover funds, year-end closeout requirements, taxes and liabilities, personnel, chapter operations and maintenance, and various non-administrative costs. Participants reviewed the Five Management System requirements and Navajo Nation budget policies to help ensure budgets are prepared in compliance with applicable requirements.

Three ASC Offices Collaborate for FY2027 Budget Worksession



The collaborative effort concluded with discussions on community priorities and next steps, including finalizing budget documents for ASC review and preparing budget packages for chapter approval and submission.

The ASC appreciates the collaboration among the Crownpoint, Kayenta, and Fort Defiance teams and the participation of the Nenahnezad Chapter as the department continues supporting chapters with their FY2027 budget preparation.

Administrative Service Centers

Teamwork in Action: Recognizing the Dilkon ASC Staff

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Dilkon Alternative Staffing Center (ASC) team for their outstanding support in helping the Whitecone Chapter successfully resolve its sanction status.

Through dedicated technical assistance, close collaboration, and consistent guidance, the Dilkon ASC staff worked hand-in-hand with Whitecone Chapter leadership to navigate complex compliance requirements and restore key operational standings. Department Manager Jaron Charley recognized the team's unwavering commitment to empowering local chapter leadership and ensuring community resources remain active and effective.

Thank you to our Dilkon ASC staff for your hard work, expertise, and ongoing dedication to the communities we serve!



PHOTO CREDIT: SYLVIA JORDAN FROM DCD 2025 THANKSGIVING ALBUM

Chapter Highlights

White Cone Chapter Celebrates Major Milestone: Sanctions Lifted After a Decade

In a historic moment for the White Cone Chapter, the community is celebrating a significant victory. Following an audit exit meeting held on August 25, 2026, it was officially announced that the chapter's sanctions have been lifted after ten years.

The meeting, which took place at 10:00 AM, included key representatives from the Office of the Auditor General, Dilkon ASC staff, and White Cone Chapter officials and staff. Principal Auditor Beverly Tom and Associate Auditor Judith Sam presented the findings in a 19-minute report that marked the end of a long journey toward financial and operational restoration.



For the current chapter officials—President Dick Lester Jr., Vice President McKenzie Belin, and Secretary Lucille Dougi—this achievement represents the fulfillment of a primary goal set when they first took their oaths of office. Their dedication, alongside chapter staff Jocelyn Hunzeker and Onaiwa Begay, has finally cleared the path for the chapter to move forward.

With the weight of sanctions removed, the White Cone Chapter is not slowing down. Officials have already announced their next ambitious goal: achieving chapter certification. The Dilkon ASC remains committed to supporting the chapter as they transition into this new phase of growth and local governance.

Congratulations to the White Cone Chapter on this hard-earned milestone!

Monthly Community Newsletter



Oljato Chapter has been active throughout August 2026. At the beginning of the month, the Chapter Administration and staff spent five days delivering six pallets of water to community members living in remote areas without running water. To support this effort, staff used their own vehicles and fuel to ensure off-grid residents received much-needed supplies during the extreme heat.

As part of our community outreach, Oljato Chapter provided backpacks filled with essential school supplies to 100 enrolled students, from Head Start through college. Additionally, families received new shorts, t-shirts, and caps.

Later in the month, community members participated in a Navajo traditional sash belt weaving workshop. This event guided participants through every stage of the weaving process, from setting up the loom to finishing the belt. The workshop offered an opportunity for learning, socializing, and enjoying a meal provided by Karilyn Begay (Community Service Coordinator), Sophia Holiday (Chapter Public Employee Project) and Willis Begay (Chapter President). Their efforts and contributions of supplies and food were essential to the success of the event.



Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehi'

4 devious email scams hitting inboxes right now, and how to spot them

The old rules that kept you safe from scammers no longer apply.

BY DOUG AAMOTH

For the last decade, email scams have run rampant on the internet. And corporate IT departments have handed out the exact same advice like clockwork: Look for bad grammar, hover over links, and turn on two-factor authentication.

But those recommendations have fallen behind the times. Thanks to AI and clever architectural work-arounds, today's email scams don't look like scams. They don't contain spelling errors. And in many cases, they don't even care if you have 2FA enabled.

Here's a handful of new tricks flooding inboxes right now, how they work, and how to stay ahead of them.

1. QR CODE MOBILE BYPASS ("QUISHING")

You open an email claiming your Microsoft 365 password is about to expire, or that an urgent HR document needs a DocuSign signature. But instead of a clickable link, there's a crisp graphic with a QR code asking you to scan with your phone's camera to verify your identity.

The ruse is particularly sneaky. Your work laptop is heavily guarded by corporate firewalls and link-checkers. The moment you pull out your phone and scan that code, you leave that protected umbrella entirely, loading a malicious page on a personal mobile browser with zero security filters.

If an unexpected email asks you to scan a code on your personal device to handle workplace credentials, treat it like a live grenade.

2. "CLICKFIX" CLIPBOARD TRAP

This one hits you with a psychological trick right when you're trying to be productive.

You click a notification email to open a document, but the web page freezes with an official-looking error pop-up claiming a rendering error occurred. It kindly asks you to press Win + R, paste a provided verification code into your Windows Run prompt, and hit Enter.

There's no software error. The scammer tricked you into copying malicious code onto your clipboard and manually executing it in your operating system terminal.

Never paste text from a browser into your computer's command terminal just because a website asked you to. Browsers don't need system-level commands to display a file.

3. ADVERSARY-IN-THE-MIDDLE LOGIN CLONING

Most people assume two-factor authentication makes login pages bulletproof. But Adversary-in-the-Middle attacks break that assumption wide open.



An email directs you to a portal that looks identical to your company's login screen. You type in your username, password, and even the six-digit code from your authenticator app.

This fake login page acts like a sneaky middleman standing between you and the real website. When you enter your password and two-factor code, the middleman passes them along to the actual site in real time.

Once the real site confirms your info and unlocks your account, the scammer snatches the session cookie that the website handed back, giving him full, instant access to your account as if he were sitting at your keyboard.

In other words, your 2FA code worked, it just worked for the attacker.

Before typing your credentials anywhere, always look closely at the URL address bar to verify the domain name is legitimate.

4. FAKE (BUT REAL) INVOICES

One of the hardest scams to filter is the one sent from a legitimate tech company. With this scam, you receive an official invoice notification from QuickBooks, PayPal, or Google Workspace containing your name, an order number, and a phone number to call if you suspect fraud.

Spam filters pass these straight into your primary inbox, because the email actually came from Intuit or Google. Attackers simply set up free business accounts on these platforms and abuse their built-in invoicing tools to blast out scam messages.

If an invoice note contains a suspicious support phone number, never call it. Always log in to your account directly through the official website to check your billing history first.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.fastcompany.com/91598229/new-email-scams>

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Plan to build Navajo Code Talkers museum finally gets off the ground

BY DANIEL J. CHACÓN

THE NEW MEXICAN

AUG 19, 2026

After years of stalling, a much-discussed plan to build a museum in New Mexico honoring the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II is finally getting off the ground – news touted Friday (Aug. 14) by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on the eve of Santa Fe Indian Market.

A groundbreaking is scheduled for Dec. 1 at Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, not as originally envisioned by some in Tse Bonito – a tiny community in the far northwestern corner of the state, a few miles from Window Rock, Ariz., generating criticism from some descendants.

Nearly \$20 million in state funding will cover construction and exhibit development costs, Lujan Grisham announced.

"The United States owes the Navajo Code Talkers a tremendous debt – for their language, their courage and their heroic service to our state and nation," she said in a statement.

"With two Code Talkers still living, there is no time to waste," added the governor, a Democrat whose second and final term in office ends this year.

While the announcement marks a major milestone in the long-awaited project, another dilemma has surfaced that threatens the long-term life of the museum after it's built.

Where will funding to operate the museum – estimated at \$600,000 a year – come from?

"What the state has said is that we will help with operational funds for a couple of years as best as we can and then in the meantime, we will continue to help Navajo Prep seek other sources of funding so that they can continue to do operations," New Mexico Indian Affairs Secretary Josett Monette told members of the state Legislature's Indian Affairs Committee on Tuesday.

"I think if there's other funding available, I think we would all be open to discussion about that," she said.

Long-term funding

While New Mexico has long paid homage to the Navajo Code Talkers – U.S. Marines who conveyed military orders and other communications in their Indigenous language, bewildering the Japanese and helping American forces gain ground and victories in the Pacific – long-discussed plans for a museum in their honor have been at a standstill.

The effort got its financial start when the late state Sen. John Pinto, a Code Talker from Gallup, secured more than \$1 million in executive and legislative capital outlay to get the museum started in 2019.

Monette told lawmakers funding for the project is a mix of "various funds" appropriated for the project since 2019 that had not been expended and \$10 million appropriated in the 2026 legislative session.

Lawmakers questioned whether the state would need to add operational funding as a recurring cost in the budget.

"Would it be wise to have a line item in our budget under the cultural affairs or under Indian Affairs or under something?" asked N.M. Senate Minority Leader Bill



Sharer, who represents Senate District 1 in San Juan County.

Monette said there have been conversations about having Navajo Prep "take ownership" of the museum.

"If the appropriators want to have other conversations ... I think IAD and other state entities would be happy to listen to those conversations," she said.

Long time coming

District 4 N.M. Rep. Joseph Hernandez, a Shiprock Democrat who is from the Navajo community of To'koi, said during Tuesday's meeting the museum has been a long time coming.

Hernandez recalled "a really deep conversation [about the museum] in the halls of Congress" with Republican U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett from Tennessee.

"He told me, 'What tribe are you?' And I told him, 'Navajo,'" he said. "He stopped what he was doing, and he pulled me to the side in the hallways, and told me his father ... fought in World War II and that his father survived World War II because of a Navajo Code Talker."

He said Burchett was "shocked" to learn New Mexico

didn't have a museum dedicated to the Code Talkers.

Hernandez asked during the meeting whether Navajo Prep would seek federal funding to "maintain and operate" the museum.

Shawna Becenti, head of school at Navajo Prep, said the school would "continue to seek funding."

"Their story needs to be shared, [the Code Talkers need] to be honored, and there's going to be a lot of additional funding that is going to be necessary," she said.

Amid ongoing delays in moving the project from paper to brick and mortar, museum advocates have expressed concerns no surviving Code Talkers would ever get to see the building.

"I wish we could have built this [museum] in 2019 when we had six surviving members," former N.M. Rep. Anthony Allison, a Fruitland Democrat, said at a legislative hearing last year.

"We are now down to two surviving members, and the youngest is 97," he said at the time.

Joe Vigil, a spokesperson for the state General Services Department, said the 6,500-square-foot museum is scheduled to be completed in fall 2028.

Site, size concerns

The new location and scaled-down size of the museum without more robust public input drew criticism.

"To me, it was an overstep and overreach by the governor," Zonnie Gorman, the daughter of one of the original 29 Code Talkers, told the news website New Mexico In Depth.

A spokesperson for the Indian Affairs Department, one of the lead agencies in the project, said Monette was unavailable for comment.

Before the school's five-member board of trustees voted unanimously to approve a memorandum of agreement with the state to construct and operate the museum in May, the proposal to plan, design and construct the museum was discussed with school leadership and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, the department wrote in an email to The New Mexican.

READ MORE AT: <https://tinyurl.com/454wpf56>

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Navajo Preparatory breaks ground on Indigenous STEAM facility Leaders tout student success that brings together tradition and innovation

Alx Lee • Friday, Aug 21, 2026

Navajo tribal and New Mexico dignitaries gathered Tuesday to break ground on a new Indigenous STEAM facility that will be built at the site of Alumni Hall, which was demolished in April 2025.

"This is where the next 35 years of Navajo Prep begins," said Shawna Becenti, head of the school.

The new facility will include classrooms for Diné material arts, visual arts, design technology, film, and music, along with a maker space where students can weave or silversmith.

"I think that's a wonderful investment," Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. "Our Navajo people are very in tune when it comes to engineering and the sciences because we've been scientists and engineers for a very, very long time."

In 2023, Sen. William E. Sharer supported capital outlay funding to investigate whether Alumni Hall could be renovated, according to Shawna Becenti, head of school.

Sharer said when there are new investments being made in infrastructure, often funding, construction or plans overshadow the most important part: the

students.

He said it is about the students who were present that afternoon sitting underneath the trees and throughout the lawn behind the representatives.

"We're not celebrating concrete," Sharer said. "We're celebrating the young people who are going to be inside this building. We're celebrating the kid who walk in one of these classrooms and discovers, 'You know what, I understand this.' A place like this gives the students the opportunity to discover something about themselves, and that matters."

READ MORE AT: <https://tinyurl.com/5dwfb9vh>

Fans roar as Shiyázh Pete makes historic appearance at State Farm Stadium

Gary Elthie

Special to Navajo-Hopi Observer Aug 25, 2026

PHOENIX – Long before kickoff, the energy around State Farm Stadium was already electric. Fans began lining up as early as 5 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. game, forming a sea of anticipation outside the gates. Cheers erupted from the crowd even before entering the stadium, with supporters waving handmade signs, the Navajo Nation flag and even a Salish flag – symbols of pride for the communities represented on this historic night.

Many waited nearly two hours for one reason: to catch even a brief glimpse of Shiyázh Pete, the newest – and now most celebrated – Navajo-Salish Native American player, who is believed to be the first to play in the NFL. When Pete finally took the field in the fourth quarter, the stadium exploded. Thunderous cheers rolled through the stands as fans shouted his name, waved Navajo Nation flags and proudly sported his No. 75.

Supporters traveled from across the Southwest and far beyond to witness the moment. Entire families arrived together, determined to see the rising star make his mark on the national stage. Many fans said Pete's presence alone "makes him an exemplary figure to the many Native children in the audience and across the Navajo Nation and all Native people."

Phyllis, a lifelong Cardinals fan from Shiprock, said she was now "here to support Shiyázh 100 percent." Fort Yuma Quechan tribal member Matthew Laurenza echoed the excitement: "Oh man, it's awesome! We came with my family to see Pete play."

The Lynch and Nelson families traveled from Ganado, proudly holding a large handmade sign reading "Yeego Shiyázh!" They described Pete as "an inspiration to children, grandchildren and all



Indigenous people alike," adding that they hoped he would see their signs and feel their admiration.

Jay Etsitty and his family made the trip from Lukachukai for their first-ever NFL game, saying they came specifically to support Shiyázh Pete and to be part of "history in the making."

As the fourth quarter began, the anticipation reached a breaking point. When Pete finally emerged onto the field, the crowd erupted into powerful chants of "Pete! Pete! Pete!" The moment transcended team loyalties – fans agreed that the night wasn't about whether the Cardinals or Cowboys won. It was about witnessing Shiyázh Pete take his place on the field.

After the game, Pete made time to greet his enormous fan base, walking along the stands, high-

five supporters and waving his helmet in gratitude. Emotion swept through the stands as fans wiped away tears of joy, their cheers echoing with pride and gratitude for the moment they had long awaited. In a social media interview afterward, he shared that he couldn't fully express his feelings in English. Instead, he turned to his Diné language, saying the only word that came to mind was Hózhó – a concept encompassing beauty, balance, harmony, goodness and walking in beauty.

The Cowboys ultimately won the game 34-13, but for thousands of fans in attendance, the true victory was seeing Shiyázh Pete step onto the field and inspire Native communities across the country.

READ MORE AT: <https://tinyurl.com/3rzdpu26>

Bulletin Board

SunShare Donates \$7.2 Million to Support Navajo Technical University, Native Women and New Mexico Communities

Native News Online Staff
Tue, September 1, 2026 at
3:27 PM MDT

SunShare, LLC, the nation's oldest community solar developer, has donated more than \$7 million to Navajo Technical University, the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women and Habitat for Humanity as part of its commitment to the communities where it operates.

On August 19, 2026, SunShare, in conjunction with SolPower, LLC, a local New Mexico community solar company, announced the completion and energization of its first two community solar gardens in New Mexico.

Dr. Elmer Guy, president of Navajo Technical University, and Abe Bitok attended the formal event.

"While this solar facility will supply clean energy, the partnership holds equal promise for creating meaningful economic and educational opportunities. I hope that this initiative collaborates with local non-profit organizations and equity partners to offer community-focused educational programs, solar facility tours, and technical training," Guy said.

To celebrate the milestone with community partners, SunShare hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its Juniper Sol Community Solar Garden in Santa Fe. The six-megawatt direct-current (MWdc) solar garden reached commercial operation July 1 and has begun producing renewable energy. SunShare's Rockhound Sol Community Solar Garden, a 4.5 MWdc solar farm in Deming, also was energized that day.



Abe Bitok, Director of Support Services, David Amster-Olszewski, CEO and Founder of SunShare, and Dr. Elmer Guy, President of Navajo Technical University, converse with one another at one community solar garden in Santa Fe, New Mexico. (Photo/Navajo Technical University)

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

Hobbs: Dialysis center fills health care gap on Navajo Nation

Arlissa D. Becenti Arizona Republic Aug 31, 2026 Updated Aug 31, 2026

GANADO — As Gov. Katie Hobbs toured the new six-chair dialysis center under construction at Sage Memorial Hospital on the Navajo Nation, she emphasized the ongoing challenges of accessing health care in rural communities.

Hobbs, the first Arizona governor to visit all 22 federally recognized tribes in the state, underscored the critical need for health care facilities like Sage Memorial Hospital — continuing to expand its services as it celebrates its 96th anniversary — to serve rural and tribal communities.



"I know how many challenges we have in rural and tribal health care access," Hobbs told The Republic. "So many people have to travel hours and hours to get the care they need. This hospital is so critical to addressing that access."

Sage Memorial Hospital marked its anniversary with a community event late last month, attended by Hobbs. The celebration came nearly two years after the hospital opened its new \$177 million state-of-the-art facility, located not far from the original hospital built in 1930.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3UQx3eW>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Positions

Naanish aa 'idaat'éhigíí

Administrative Services Centers

Fort Defiance ASC

Community Services Coordinator	Rock Springs, NM	\$46,562.40	9/2/2026
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Crownpoint ASC

Accounts Maintenance Specialist	Nageezi, NM	\$36,164.16	9/11/2026
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Accounts Maintenance Specialist	Pueblo Pintado, NM	\$36,164.16	9/11/2026
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Shiprock ASC

Accounts Maintenance Specialist	Red Valley, AZ	\$36,164.16	9/15/2026
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Capital Projects Management Department

Senior Accountant	Window Rock, AZ	\$61,763.04	9/18/2026
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Project Manager	Window Rock, AZ	\$55,979.28	9/14/2026
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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

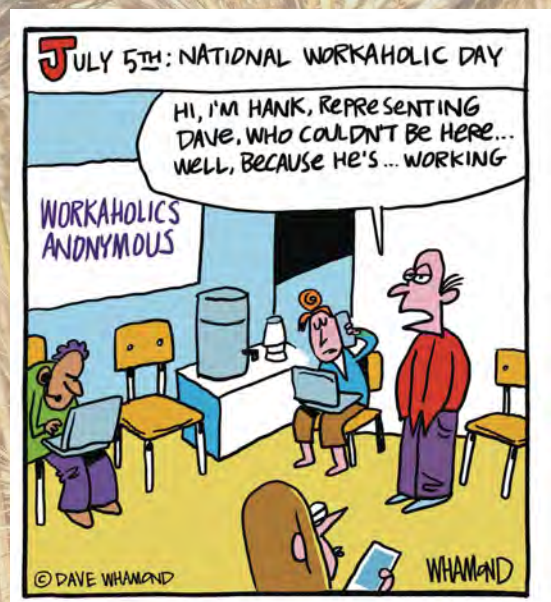
Saad Baa Nitsáhakeesigíí

Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigíí Naashch'aa'

"August rain—the best of
the summer gone, and the
new fall not yet born. The
odd uneven time."

— Sylvia Plath



Global Older Adult Population Projected to Nearly Double by 2060

Population in the United States Will Age Slower Than in Other Countries

August 31, 2026

Press Release Number: CB26-TPS.49

AUG. 31, 2026 – The share of the world population age 65 and older is projected to nearly double from 10.5% to 19.6% between 2025 and 2060, according to a new report released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

An Aging World: 2025 (<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2026/demo/P95-26-1.html>) finds that the global population is aging faster than ever before. Between 2020 and 2025, the proportion of the population age 65 and older exceeded the population age 5 and younger for the first time in recorded history.

In 2025, the United States ranked the 48th oldest country out of 227, with 18.9% of its population age 65 or older. By 2060, older adults are projected to make up 23.4% of the U.S. population. Yet the United States will fall to 110th place globally because other countries are aging much more rapidly.

Japan was the oldest country in the world in 2025, with 29.7% of its population age 65 or older. But by 2060, South Korea is projected to become the oldest country, with 41% of its population age 65 or older.

Europe is currently the oldest region in the world, with the percentage of its population age 65 or over increasing from 21% to 30.8% between 2025 and 2060. However, in sheer numbers, the youngest region, Africa, is projected to have more older people than Europe. By 2060, Africa is projected to have 249 million people age 65 and over compared to 214 million in Europe.

Declining fertility and worldwide improvements in health services, educational status and economic development have contributed to a growing older population across regions. The report highlights how this growth may impact healthcare systems, employment, and overall financial, physical, and mental well-being.

Highlights include:

Life expectancy is projected to increase faster than healthy life expectancy. This means a smaller share of the extra years lived is expected to be lived in good health. In the United States, for example, the proportion of years lived in full health after age 60 decreased by more than 2 percentage points between 2000 and 2019, and slightly more for men than for women.

An estimated 73% of the U.S. population age 65 or older suffered from two or more chronic conditions between 2016 and 2019.

Globally, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are among the top five leading causes of death in those age 60 and over as of 2021.

Over the next decade, the average increase in government health spending (2.6% of GDP) is projected to be twice the average growth in government revenues (1.3% of GDP) across Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, creating an imbalance.

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the problems faced by the older population as many lost jobs, easy access to health care, caregiver support, lacked digital connectivity for communication, and became isolated.

Unpaid caregiving by family members and friends remains the main source of long-term care for older people worldwide. In many OECD countries, 3 out of 5 caregivers age 50 and older are women.

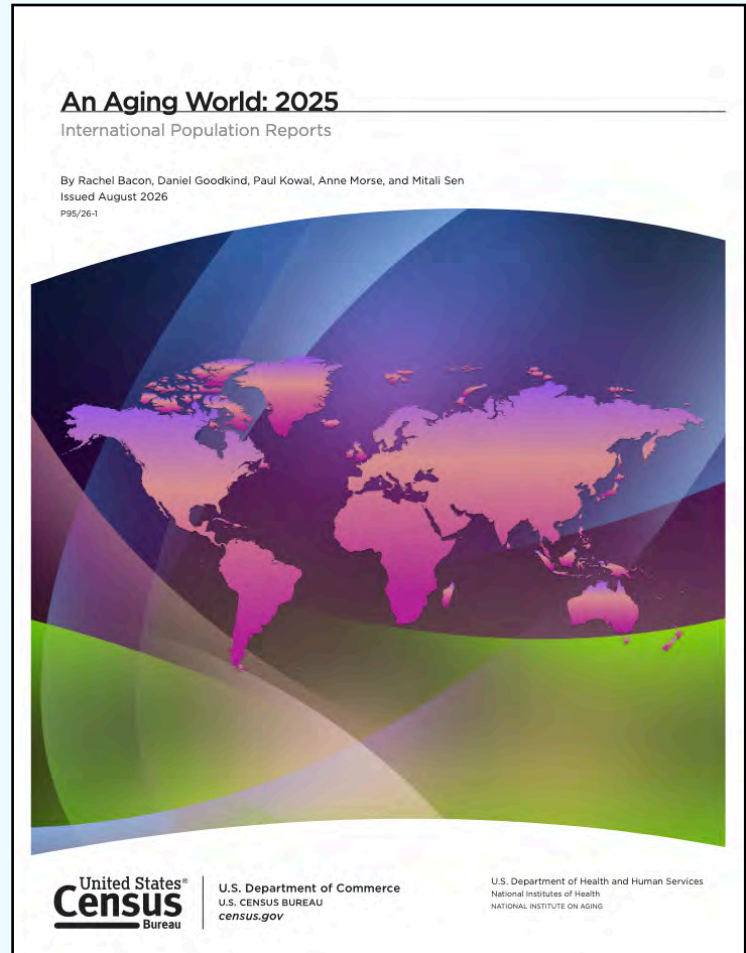
The labor force participation rate for people age 65 and older in high-income countries increased between 2012 and 2022, but many low- and middle-income countries experienced a decrease over that period.

In the United Kingdom, between 2021 and 2023, 56.2% of adults age 65 and over volunteered their time which is much higher than most countries in the world.

Public pensions may cover more than 90% of the average wages in some countries (e.g., Brazil, Turkey, the Netherlands and Argentina), but only 50% of the average wage in others (e.g., the United States, Canada, India, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa).

South Korea's exceptionally high old-age poverty rate (above 40% in 2015 and 2020) is in sharp contrast to Norway, the Netherlands and Hungary, where the old-age poverty rate remained below 10% during the same period.

The report contains statistics from the Census Bureau's International Database and other data sources, such as the international family of Health and Retirement surveys, the Gateway to Global Aging, The World Bank, International Labour Organization, and the OECD. This is the sixth edition of the Census Bureau's An Aging World series, which was first published in 1987. All six editions were commissioned and supported by the National Institute on Aging's Division of Behavioral and Social Research.

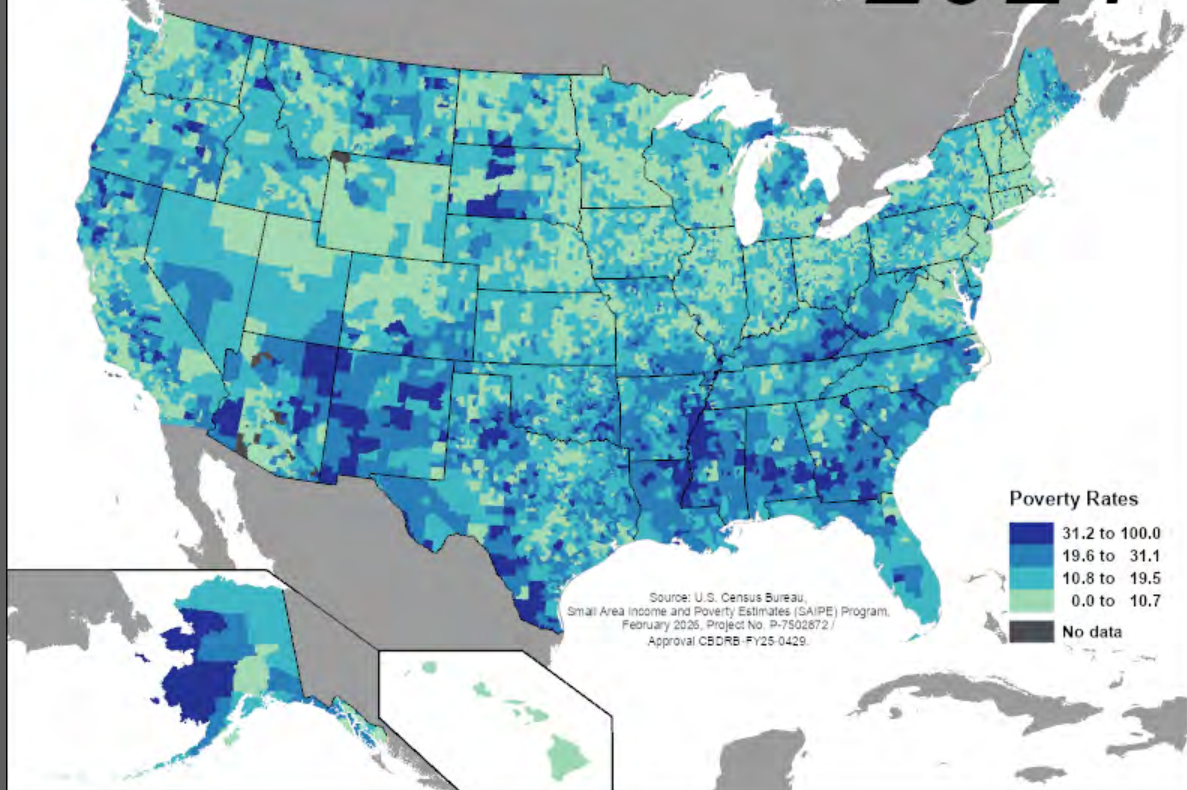


READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026/older-adult-population-projections.html>

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Poverty Ratios of School-Age Children in Families by School Districts

2024



Housing in America

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



Offices of Real Estate
Agents and Brokers
\$161.8 billion



Architectural Services
\$49.2 billion



Lumber and Other
Construction
Materials Merchant
Wholesalers
\$306.4 billion



Building Material
and Supplies Dealers
\$454.7 billion

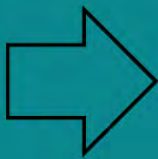


Wood Window and
Door Manufacturing
\$18.1 billion



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 and Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CDBRB-FY25-0362).

Community Land Use Planning Website



A platform for community-driven land use planning resources.



- Community land use planning orientation video!
- 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

Community Land Use Planning Kéyah Binahat'a'



Visit our website today!

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
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Bini'anit'ááts'ósi



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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