

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníílgíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Bini'anit'ááts'oh

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

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Nít béé hoziníshii...

Did You Know...

Be'ezhóó - Hair Brush (Navajo)

The Be'ezhóó is a bundle of stiff, dried perennial grass (called sandhill muhly).

Sacred Symbolism: In Navajo culture, hair represents rain, wisdom, and accumulated learning. Brushing the hair is a spiritual act symbolizing the gathering and honoring of one's wisdom.

Harvesting: The sandhill muhly grass is gathered seasonally in the fall (September to October) when dry, cleaned, and tightly bound into a traditional brush.

Blessing: Even a single pass of the grass brush through the hair is regarded as a protective blessing and a connection to tradition.

Watch at: <https://bit.ly/3TQoReC>

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

Events:

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

September 7: Labor Day

September 8-13: Navajo Nation Fair

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

October 7: Navajo New Year's Day

October 11: Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 31: Halloween

DCD STEPS UP TO SERVE

A Day of Community, Teamwork and Celebration at the 2026 Navajo Nation Fair



September 10, 2026 | Navajo Nation Fairgrounds

The Division of Community Development (DCD) stepped outside the office and into the community this year, bringing together staff from across the Division to serve at the 2026 Navajo Nation Fair Free Barbecue.

From the regional Administrative Services Centers, Capital Projects Management Department, Community Housing Infrastructure Department, DCD Administration, and DNR employees volunteered their time and worked side-by-side to welcome and serve community members during one of the Navajo Nation's largest annual celebrations.



MORE THAN A MEAL — IT WAS TEAMWORK IN ACTION

The free barbecue provided DCD employees with an opportunity to give back to the community while strengthening connections across departments and regions.

With Navajo Fire Rock Casino sponsoring the food and Navajo Fizz providing free soda, DCD staff helped make the community gathering possible. Employees worked together throughout the day, demonstrating the cooperation and teamwork that are essential to DCD's mission of serving the Navajo people.



CELEBRATING THE COMMUNITY

The barbecue was part of a busy day at the Navajo Nation Fair, bringing together community members attending Elderfest, exhibition booths, the Farmer Producer Workshop and the 4-H Livestock Show.

Entertainment kept the celebration going with performances by K'é Soundwave, featuring Joe Tohonnie Jr., Dachuneeh Martin, Todi Neesh Zhee' Singers and Lei Yei To Singers (Klagetoh Swingers), with DJ NeonNativez serving as MC.

DCD IN THE COMMUNITY

For DCD, the day represented more than volunteering at a fair event. It demonstrated the Division's commitment to community service, collaboration and building stronger relationships among employees.

Staff who normally work in different departments and regions came together with a shared purpose: to serve the community and represent DCD through action.





The successful event created an opportunity for employees to connect with one another, engage with community members and celebrate the Navajo Nation Fair together.

A SUCCESS MADE POSSIBLE BY MANY

DCD extends its appreciation to the employees who volunteered their time, to Navajo Fire Rock Casino for sponsoring the barbecue, to Navajo Fizz for providing refreshments, and to the entertainers and community members who helped make the day a success.

The 2026 Navajo Nation Fair Free Barbecue was a reminder that when DCD comes together, we can make a difference—not only through the work we do every day, but through the way we show up and serve our community.



Buu 250

Lukachukai Chapter



DCD staff: Norbert Nez, Computer Ops Mgr; Saraphina Curley, Sr. Ofc Speclst; Emmett Tsosie, HIP Planner; Marla Sandoval-Redhouse, CSC; Tanderia Jones, AMS; HIP Staff - Irvin Shorty and Barton Willie.

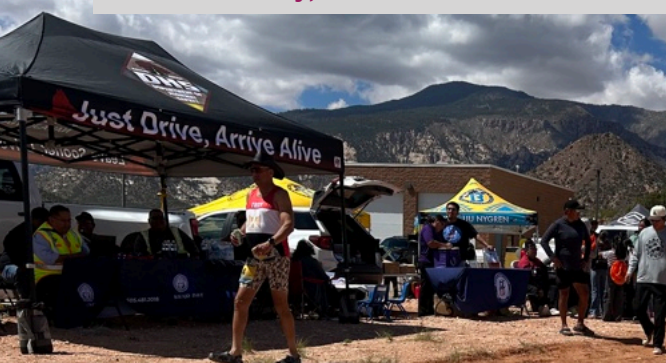
The Division of Community Development participated in all the Buu 250 events held at Lukachukai Chapter, Navajo Mountain Chapter and several other chapters. DCD staff provided information and resources through the Housing Improvement Program, Community Housing and Infrastructure Department, Administrative Services Center and Capital Projects Management Department booths. Chapter staff provided free lunches for participants. The events included a resource fair, a marathon, a bike marathon, 10K and 5K runs, and a 1K fun run, bringing the community together for a day of wellness, resources, and community engagement.

Buu250

Navajo Mountain Chapter



DCD Admin staff: Rena Dodson; CHID Staff: Patrick Dalgai, Tyler Willatto, Shaquille Spencer, Autumn John, Jerome Meyers, Angelita John, Joseph Charley; ASC Staff: Daphne Parrish, Kristen Charley, Jaron Charley, Milford Maloney; CPMD Staff: Michele Peterson, Stephanie Baldwin, Denise R. E. Copeland





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

Hello to Arthur Hardy Jr, Project Manager



Arthur Hardy Jr.
Project Manager, Capital Projects Management
Department
Division of Community Development, Navajo Nation

Arthur Hardy Jr. is from Greasewood Springs, Arizona, and recently joined the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development's Capital Projects Management Department as a Project Manager.

Prior to joining the Capital Projects Management Department, Arthur served with the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch in the Office of the Speaker as a Legislative Staff Assistant. He also previously worked as a Legislative District Assistant with both the 23rd and 24th Navajo Nation Councils. His experience within the Legislative Branch provided him with extensive exposure to Navajo Nation government operations, community priorities, legislative processes, and coordination among leadership, chapters, programs, and constituents.

Arthur also brings direct community leadership experience, having previously served as President of the Greasewood Springs Chapter. His experience at the chapter level provided him with firsthand knowledge of community needs, local governance, infrastructure priorities, and the importance of moving projects from planning and

coordination through successful implementation.

Arthur is also a United States Army veteran, having served from 2001 to 2005. His military service further strengthened his experience in teamwork, discipline, responsibility, and working toward defined objectives in demanding environments.

In addition to his government, military, and community leadership experience, Arthur has been a cast member on the television series *The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch* and *Beyond Skinwalker Ranch* for three seasons.

Arthur brings his project management, governmental, legislative, military, and community leadership experience to the Capital Projects Management Department, where he looks forward to supporting projects that benefit Navajo communities and contribute to the goals of the Division of Community Development.

Arthur's maternal clan is **Coyote Pass**, his paternal clan is **Towering House**, his maternal grandparents are **Big Water**, and his paternal grandparents are **Water's Edge**.

Arthur looks forward to working with the Capital Projects Management Department and the entire Division of Community Development team and contributing his experience toward the successful development and delivery of projects throughout the Navajo Nation.

Leupp Chapter Receives Sign Materials Through ARPA Funding



Leupp laborers installing an intersection sign on Leupp School Incorporated campus

As a result of CJN-29-22 ARPA funding projects under section 4, Division of Public Safety (DPS) contractor, Spatial Data Research, Inc. (SDR) has been delivering sign materials to various Chapters. Leupp, the Chapter that will be 100 years old next year, received its shipment of signs during the summer. With community support and resolution number LP 02-033-2026 (March 2026), the Chapter prepared to join other Chapters that have been installing intersection signs to identify centerlines (roads and streets) for the physical addressing process. The Leupp Community Land Use Planning (CLUP) committee hosted two community awareness meetings in October and December 2025 at 109 Leupp 4912. For emergency response and third-party freight delivery, the Leupp Community Chapter House building has been assigned the physical address number 109 along the centerline (street name) Leupp 4912 by SDR. The Chapter house is located on the left side of the centerline, which the address number reflects; addressable structures on the right side received even numbers. SDR will continue to partner with the Division of Community Development (DCD) through DPS to continue the ARPA-funded rural addressing projects for Navajo Nation Chapters.

★ ASC Stars of the Month: Recognizing Our Outstanding Team

A Heartfelt Thank You to All ASC Employees

This month, I want to recognize and extend a sincere thank you to all Administrative Services Center (ASC) employees for your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to serving our Navajo Nation communities.

In response to the recent flooding events, ASC employees stepped up to provide assistance, share important updates, and offer guidance and support where needed. Your willingness to respond, communicate, and help address the needs of our communities demonstrates the important role ASC plays in supporting our chapters and the people we serve.

I also want to recognize everyone who assisted with the community BBQ at the Navajo Nation Fair and the BUU 250 events held across the Navajo Nation. Your participation and support helped contribute to these community activities and demonstrated the spirit of cooperation and service that makes our organization strong.

As Department Manager, I greatly appreciate each of you for stepping forward, taking initiative, and working together when support was needed. These efforts reflect the professionalism, dedication, and teamwork that we strive to uphold throughout ASC.

Every employee makes a difference. Whether providing guidance, sharing information, assisting with community events, or responding to an emergency, your contributions matter and are appreciated.

Thank you for representing ASC with pride and for continuing to serve our chapters and communities with commitment and compassion. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am proud of the work we accomplish together.

Keep up the great work, ASC team!

Jaron Charley
ASC Department Manager

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NAVAJO NATION FAIR

The Power of She DINE ASDZAA HONORING NIGHT

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026
6:30 PM DST
NAVAJO SQUARE - TENT C
WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA

Honoring

Arianna Yazzie Central Navajo Agency	Trudie Jackson Northern Navajo Agency
Amber Benallie Southwestern Agency	Deborah Shirley Western Navajo Agency
Guarena Adeky Eastern Navajo Agency	Dr. Crystal Tulley-Cordova Grand Marshall
	Darlene Arviso Grand Marshall

Presented by
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAJO NATION
Richelle Montoya
(928) 810-9043
Nrv.p.montoya@gmail.com

2026
Power of She Award
from the
Office of the Navajo Nation
Vice President Richelle Montoya
GUARENA ADEKY
Women hold an important role
in our pine history.
Your contribution to keeping
our people strong is
appreciated and
noticed.

CONGRATULATIONS
GUARENA!

THE
POWER
OF
SHE

Crownpoint ASC Hosts Training Session on FY 2027 Underwriting Exposure Summary

On September 9, 2026, the Crownpoint Administrative Services Center (ASC) hosted an ASC Training Series event at the Tse'ii'ahi' Chapter in Standing Rock, NM.1234

The morning session centered on a presentation by Navajo Nation Risk Management regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 Underwriting Exposure Summary (UES). Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with presenters during a dedicated Questions & Answers segment.567

In addition to the main presentation, updates were provided on regional initiatives, including Dayforce. The event concluded with an announcement regarding the upcoming ASC Crownpoint Monthly Staff & Officials Meeting, scheduled for September 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM.891011



Chapter Highlights

Coppermine Chapter

Coppermine Chapter Purchases Vehicle for Community Service

2020 Ford Explorer XLT will support community needs and Chapter projects

COPPERMINE CHAPTER, Navajo Nation — Coppermine Chapter used Navajo Nation tax funds to purchase a 2020 Ford Explorer XLT four-door 4x4. The vehicle will help staff assist residents, travel to project sites and complete ongoing Chapter projects including home assessments.



Chapter Highlights

Coppermine Chapter

Coppermine Chapter also used emergency funds to assist community members affected by the ongoing drought. The Chapter provided cases of water, groceries, hay and grain to help families meet basic needs and care for their livestock during the prolonged dry conditions. The Coppermine Community extends its appreciation to CSC Constance Lano, President Debora Saliego, Vice President Kee Black, Secretary-Treasurer Debbie Tsinigine for volunteering their time to deliver and distribute these essential goods to community members.

Coppermine Chapter also thanks Mary Francis and Chad Olsen, owner of Camelback Moving Company, along with Chad's generous network of moving company contacts, for coming together to deliver white fleece blankets to the community. The Chapter distributed the blankets during its September regular Chapter meeting.

Story Submission by: Constance Lano, Coppermine Chapter Community Services Coordinator



OLJATO CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

September 2026 Accomplishments & Achievements



Community Flood Assistance

In September, three Chapter staff members helped community members who were affected by heavy rain and flooding. Staff helped place sandbags around homestites and redirected runoff water to help protect homes and property.

Community Wellness Event

Each month, the Chapter hosts a walk to promote health and wellness. In September, more than 110 students participated in the walk.

As part of the Back-to-School Event on September 15, 2026, each student who participated received a backpack. Thank you to all the students and community members who joined the event.

Chapter Building Sign

The PEP staff completed a new sign for the Chapter Administration building. The sign will make it easier for visitors and community members to identify the Chapter office.

PEP Projects

The PEP laborer crew completed several drywall projects and finished an octagon project before their six-month PEP period ended.

Thank You

Oljato Chapter would like to thank all the staff, students, community members, NDOT, BIA Road Department, NTUA, and PEP crew for their hard work and support throughout September.

Chapter Highlights

White Cone Chapter recently came out of sanction after 10 years. To recognize this significant milestone, the Chapter organized a community sheep-butchering demonstration, providing community members with an opportunity to learn about the traditional preparation of mutton.

Following the demonstration, the mutton and other foods were prepared and served to the community at the September Chapter meeting. This gathering provided an opportunity for White Cone Chapter to celebrate this important achievement together with the community and recognize the progress made toward coming out of sanction.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed their time, support, and efforts to make this celebration possible and to help White Cone Chapter reach this important milestone.

The White Cone Chapter administration and chapter officials have been working diligently to prepare for the continued rainfall and potential impacts on our community. As part of our emergency preparedness efforts, we have cots, blankets, and other essential supplies available for community members who may be unable to safely reach their homes and need a safe, dry, and warm place to stay.

The Chapter has also purchased cases of bottled water and has been distributing one case per household to assist community members during this period of heavy rainfall. In addition, we have been preparing sandbags for community members to use to help protect their homes and property from potential flooding and runoff.

On September 12, 2026, White Cone Chapter also hosted a Community Resource Outreach Event in partnership with Shepherd's Healthcare. Shepherd's Healthcare is an integrated medical and behavioral health program that provides primary care and mental wellness services.

As part of their three-month program, Shepherd's Healthcare brought several White Cone community members who are currently receiving services at their facility to White Cone so they could spend time with their families. This provided an opportunity for the clients to reconnect with their loved ones while also allowing Shepherd's Healthcare representatives to share information about their program and the services they provide.



The event also provided a n opportunity for community members to learn more a b o u t substance abuse and mental health services and to hear directly from clients about their personal journeys and experiences. We appreciate Shepherd's Healthcare for bringing these resources to our community and for providing an opportunity for families and community members to learn more about the support available to them.

White Cone Chapter looks forward to continuing to work with Shepherd's Healthcare and other community partners to bring additional resources, education, and support to the White Cone community.

Chapter Highlights

Tse Dáá K'áán Celebrates New 2026–2027 Royalty

On September 24, 2026, the Tse Dáá K'áán and surrounding communities came together for an evening of culture, talent, and community support at the Tse Dáá K'áán Queen & Princess Pageant.

More than 200 community members packed the Phil L. Thomas Performing Arts Center in Shiprock to support five young Diné women who stepped forward to represent their families and community. The strong turnout made the evening even more meaningful and showed our contestants just how much support they had behind them.

This year's contestants were Danika Begay, Haiden Sanisya, Nizhoni Billy, Bria Harrison, and Tylia Anagale. Throughout the evening, they shared their voices, talents, cultural knowledge, and personalities through speech, contemporary talent, traditional talent, a judges' interview, and traditional modeling.

At the end of the evening, Haiden Sanisya was crowned 2026–2027 Miss Tse Dáá K'áán, and Bria Harrison was crowned 2026–2027 Miss Tse Dáá K'áán Teen.

The pageant was about more than crowning new royalty. It gave these young women a place to stand before their community, share who they are, and grow through the experience. Every contestant who walked onto that stage showed courage, and we are proud of each one of them for stepping forward.

Meet Our 2026 CONTESTANTS
Tse Dáá K'áán Pageant

September 24, 2026 | Doors Open at 3:00 PM
Phil Thomas Performing Arts Center | Shiprock, NM

Miss Tse Dáá K'áán Contestants

Miss Tse Dáá K'áán Teen Contestants

Ahéhee' to each of our contestants for having the courage to step forward and represent Tse Dáá K'áán. May you continue to learn, grow, and walk forward in hózhó.



Chapter Highlights

The evening would not have been possible without the families, volunteers, judges, photographers, local businesses, donors, and community members who gave their time, resources, and encouragement. Seeing more than 200 people come through the doors was a reminder that when our young people step forward, our community should be there to stand behind them.

As Haiden and Bria begin their year as Tse Dáa K'áán royalty, we look forward to watching them grow, serve, and represent our community throughout 2026–2027.

Ahéhee' to everyone who came out, helped behind the scenes, supported our contestants, and made this year's pageant possible. Congratulations to all five of our young women, and to our newly crowned royalty.



Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehi'

Marilou Schultz: Weaving Where We Are in Time

Marilou Schultz, Emily Olek
Curatorial Associate, Department
of Drawings and Prints
May 15, 2025

Fourth-generation Navajo weaver Marilou Schultz has taken traditional weaving patterns and made them distinctly modern. Commissioned by Intel to create a woven replica of their 1994 Pentium chip, Schultz became known for finely crafted weavings that engage the world of digital technology. Her work is currently on view in the exhibition *Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction*, and she spoke to us about the enduring presence of the loom in her life, and how she envisions new technologies through ancestral techniques.

—Emily Olek, Curatorial Associate, Department of



Drawings and Prints

I'm Marilou Schultz. I'm Diné, from the Navajo Nation, and my clan is Naadą́ą' Dine'é Tábaqáhi, or Zuni Water's Edge Clan. That's my mother's clan. And then my dad's clan was Tsi'naajinii, which translates to Black Streaked Wood/Dark Streaked/Black Horizontal/Black Rock.

Growing up, my mom had a loom; it was something that was always there. As kids, we helped take care of the sheep in my grandmother's flock. Whatever wool we got, we would prepare (washing, carding, and

spinning) so our mom could weave. And we always messed around with her loom, so eventually I picked it up. I come from a large family; my parents couldn't really support all of us financially. Eventually we found out that we could earn money by weaving. So that was our motivation to learn how to weave as kids. It was basically just for survival.

After I graduated and got my teaching degree, weaving became more of an art for me. Since I had a consistent salary, I didn't have to weave just to earn money to support myself. It allowed me to start experimenting with colors, techniques, and different styles and designs in the 1980s. My experimentation took me to other dyes and colors, rather than just using the colors that came from where we lived, where there was not much vegetation. (The only plants that we could use, you got different shades of yellows and then walnut trees for the brown and then a white wash and a natural black or black aniline-dyed yarn.) I was able to use the time to seek yarns that were dyed by other Navajo women.

I was approached to see if I would be willing to do a

computer chip weaving. I agreed to it, not having even seen the image. When the picture came, I thought, "My gosh, what did I agree to do? This is impossible!"

My uncle and my dad and mom told us that a long time ago, we used to have wool you didn't have to card—you could just spin it, unlike the rougher wool we worked with. In my lifetime, it turned out that I was able to get the Navajo Churro sheep back into our family—around 1990—with a project out of Utah that was promoting the Churro and bringing it back to our people. I was able to get a ram and some lambs for my mom's place. And that's when we started using the Churro again, with its natural shades of brown, grays, black.

As far as *Replica for a Chip*, [based on] the 1994 Intel Pentium chip, the title that year for the Indian Science and Engineering Conference in San Jose was weaving through technology. I was approached to see if I would be willing to do a computer chip weaving. I agreed to it, not having even seen the image. When the picture came, I thought, "My gosh, what did I agree to do? This is impossible!" It was, but the amazing part about the image was all these natural colors, which I didn't know chips had! So I was able to use what we call the raised outline technique, alternating two colors. Since I'm a math teacher, I looked at it proportionately. I kept breaking it down into halves, making marks all along the photo and cutting it down to 64ths. I looked at it and made the transfer. I didn't draw anything on my warp.



A lot of our people work for Intel; in my community there is a [manufacturing] plant, where people put together chip and circuit boards for GM [and other companies], that have been around for 40 years. Native Americans are pretty good with their hands and we can think visually. I see that in my kids. When the rug was unveiled to me, it was just a piece of art with a design. And then I heard my students attending the conference saying, "I see this part!," naming parts of the Pentium chip. That was my first exposure to the chip itself.

For the other work in the exhibition, [Untitled (Unknown Chip) from 2008], there's lots of shading with indigo, red, and black. More than any experimental weaving techniques, I had to do a lot of special dye techniques to get all those different effects. And then, for [a more recent] circuit board piece, I wanted something to connect our people back with the chip circuit board. I incorporated an abstract spider to represent Spiderwoman. The symbols up on top were in the photos that I've seen of AI chips; you can't really figure out what they look like. But one of the [symbols] was a prong, three prongs. So instead of the three prongs, I made it four because four is significant to our people. And now I'm using metallic thread in my next chip weaving to represent aluminum and copper.

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

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehi'

Echo Cliffs Health Center Opens Its Doors

A New Health Care Resource for Western Navajo Communities

The Echo Cliffs Health Center in Bodaway Gap is officially opening its doors, bringing expanded health care services closer to families in Western Navajo communities.

A Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 2, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the new health center. The event will include a health and information fair, food, an open house, and entertainment featuring Supaman and the Dinetah Dancers.

The new facility will provide a variety of services,



including primary and family care, dental, eye care, laboratory and imaging services, mental health, physical therapy, pediatrics, women's health, and pharmacy services.

The Echo Cliffs Health Center is located at 266 N20 Highway 89 in Bodaway Gap, Arizona. To schedule an appointment, call 1-866-976-5941. Please note that the facility provides non-emergency care and is not an emergency room. Tuba City Regional Health Care?

For more information:

Tuba City Regional Health Care - Echo Cliffs Health Center <https://tchealth.org/echocliffs-grandopening/>

Navajo Nation Announces \$7.9 Million Hardship Assistance Program for Elders

by Native News Online Staff

September 24, 2026

The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller, in coordination with the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office, has announced the implementation of the 2026 Hardship Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to elderly Navajo Nation citizens.

The program is funded with a total of \$7,954,605 allocated through Navajo Nation Council Resolution CD-54-24. Sponsored by Speaker Crystalne Curley, the resolution allocated \$5,623,603 in remaining unobligated Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Funds to the program through the Office of the Controller. An additional \$2,331,002 was subsequently allocated, bringing total funding to nearly \$8 million.

The Naabik'yati' Committee worked with the Office of the Controller and the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office to establish the program.

Eligibility and payments

To qualify, applicants must:

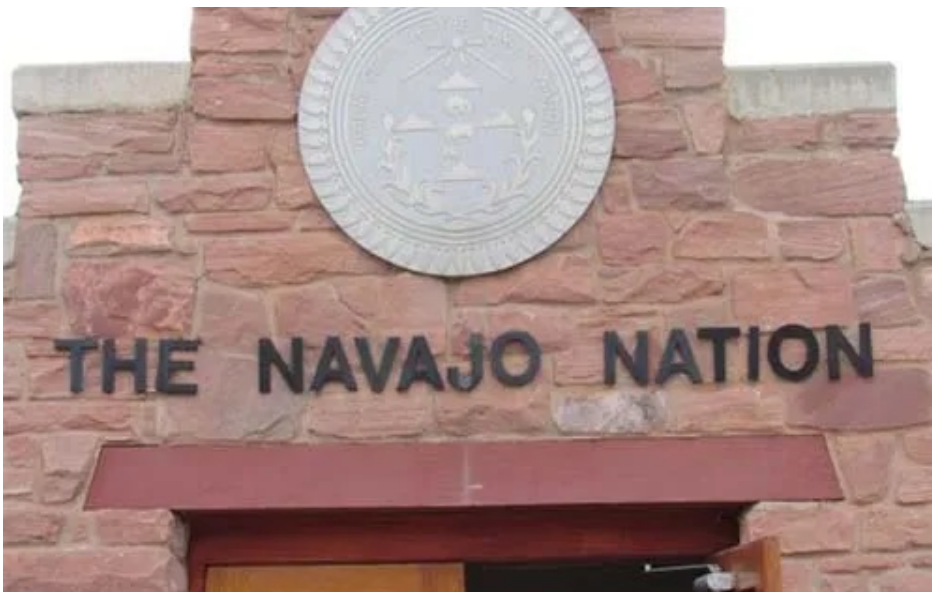
- Be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation; and
- Be at least 75 years old as of May 31, 2026.

Based on the current eligibility criteria, approximately 30,000 Navajo citizens may qualify for the program. Each eligible individual will receive a one-time \$250 payment.

"The Hardship Assistance plan will prioritize elders, including those living in assisted living homes, as this was a recommendation from the Naabik'yati' Committee," Speaker Curley said. "The 25th Navajo Nation Council ensured that the Hardship Assistance Program would be implemented and we understand that our elders are in need of assistance."

Applications and outreach

The Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office will



begin accepting paper applications during in-person outreach events starting Oct. 5, 2026. A public outreach tour will continue throughout October.

Applicants must provide a copy of either a valid Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) or Navajo Nation Tribal ID Card, along with a valid form of identification, such as a state-issued identification card, driver's license or passport.

Navajo elders who are unable to apply in person can email frfohardship@navajo-nsn.gov to schedule a teleconference with Fiscal Recovery Fund Office staff.

Applications must be submitted by Nov. 20, 2026.

Payment distribution

The Fiscal Recovery Fund Office plans to print Hardship Assistance checks throughout October, with payments distributed during October, November and

December.

Check distribution will conclude Dec. 4, 2026, while the overall 2026 Hardship Program will conclude Dec. 11, 2026. Checks will either be distributed in person or mailed to eligible applicants.

Recipients will have 90 days to cash their checks. All checks will be voided after Dec. 31, 2026.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council said it will provide additional updates to the Navajo people as the program progresses.

For additional information about the program, applicants can contact the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office at frfohardship@navajo-nsn.gov.

READ MORE AT: <https://tinyurl.com/8c7a8km6>

Bulletin Board

NMSU alum inducted into Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame

Dave Burge
Sun, Sep 13, 2026

EL PASO, Texas (KTSM) -- Surrounded by his close friends and family, Cuyler Frank would call sports games in his native Navajo. He never thought an activity he pursued for fun would one day make him a living piece of history.

In September 2005, Frank, a New Mexico State University alumnus, broadcast the nation's first radio play-by-play in Navajo for an NCAA Division 1 football game while a student at NMSU. In May 2026, the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame (NAIAHF) inducted him for his diligent work preserving the Navajo language.

"I really didn't expect this to happen," Frank said. "I just wanted to call games and be out there."

The honor, however, arrived alongside grief, NMSU said in a news release. Shortly after Frank's induction, his mother died, making the moment as heavy as it was celebratory.

"At first, I was happy about the induction. I told her, 'Mom, I made the Hall of Fame,'" he said. "But as she started to become more ill, the recognition became something I kind of pushed aside like everything else in my life that I had going on."

Although the Hall of Fame took a back seat, Frank said the moment felt like it cemented his life's work.



For Frank, it was always about the Navajo language itself and never about any accolades that may come with it.

Read at: <https://yhoo.it/4AKuxaH>

Navajo Nation-owned North Stone wins Air Force IT contract

By Tribal Business News Staff September 26, 2026

North Stone LLC, a subsidiary of Navajo Nation-owned Diné Development Corporation, has won a contract to provide technology services for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the company announced Sept. 22.

The contract covers IT maintenance, cloud operations, software development, cybersecurity and service desk support for the agency's Directorate of IT Services and Solutions. North Stone said the work will support about 3,500 personnel at more than 300 locations worldwide.

DDC did not disclose the contract's value, term or award number. Those details could not be independently verified from the public award records reviewed by Tribal Business News.

DDC provides IT, engineering and professional services through a group of companies. It said its businesses have supported Air Force technology programs for more than two decades.

North Stone recorded about \$26.4 million in federal prime contract obligations over the past three fiscal years, according to data from HigherGov. The figure measures money obligated across its contracts; it is not the value of the newly announced AFOSI award.

The award follows DDC's Sept. 10 announcement that it had achieved Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level 2 after an independent assessment. The certification addresses requirements for protecting controlled unclassified information in Defense Department contracting.

DDC also announced this month that it had paid a \$750,000 dividend to the Navajo Nation, its largest single dividend to date. The money will go to the Nation's general fund. DDC said it has contributed more than \$27 million to the Navajo Nation since its founding in 2004.

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



PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Positions

Naanish aa 'idaat'éhigíí

Administrative Services Centers

Crownpoint ASC

Accounts Maintenance Specialist	Pueblo Pintado, NM	\$36,164.16	10/7/2026
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Shiprock ASC

Accounts Maintenance Specialist	Red Valley, AZ	\$36,164.16	10/1/2026
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(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

Closing Dates may change

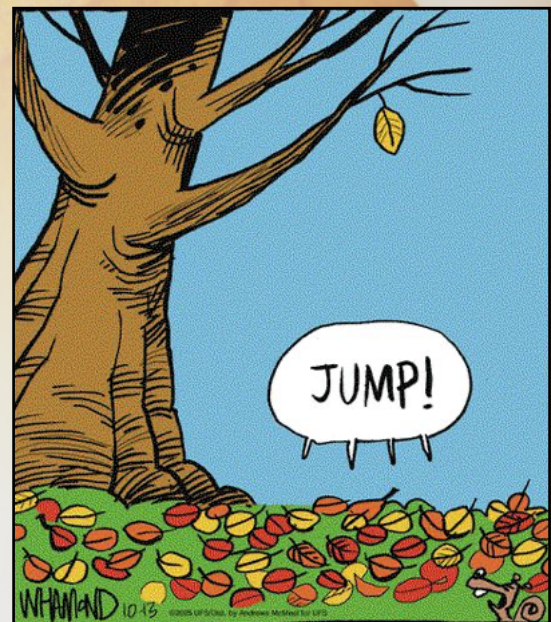
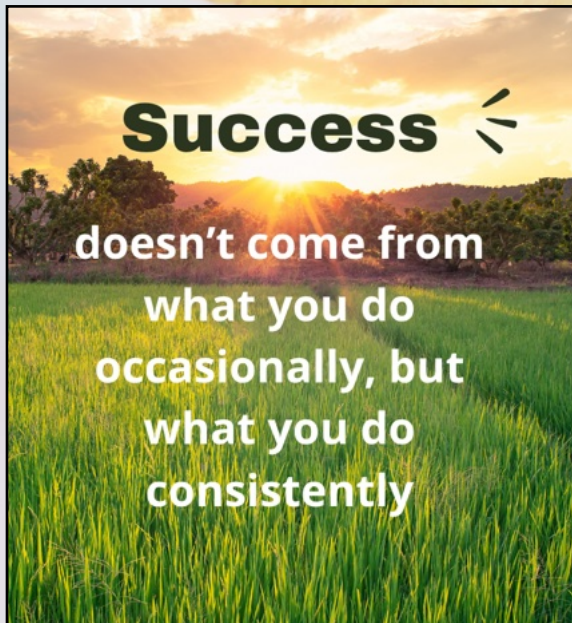
For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at
<https://apply.navajo-nsn.gov/>

Quote of the Month

Saad BaꞤ Nitsáhakeesigíí

Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigíí Naashch'aa'



Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

National Preparedness Month: September 2026

August 26, 2026

CB26-SFS.11

When disasters strike, the U.S. Census Bureau's Emergency Management Hub offers timely local data on affected areas in the United States and its territories to help communities gauge the potential impact on people and businesses.

Census Bureau emergency management-related resources and data tools support emergency planning, preparedness and recovery efforts. Explore My Community Explorer, Community Resilience Estimates, OnTheMap for Emergency Management and Census Business Builder.

Key Stats

From My Community Explorer:

- Community Resilience Estimates (CRE). (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/community-resilience-estimates.html>) Provide an easy-to-understand metric for how socially vulnerable every neighborhood in the United States is to the impacts of disasters.
- American Community Survey (ACS). (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs.html>) Includes selected demographic and socioeconomic statistics on subjects like poverty, educational attainment and language spoken at home at the state, county and census tract levels.
- County Business Patterns (CBP). (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>) Includes selected business statistics from the 2023 CBP such as the number of employer establishments, employment rates and average annual payroll per employee at the state and county levels by two-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.
- Nonemployer Statistics (NES). (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html>) Includes selected statistics on nonemployer businesses (those without paid employees) from the NES like the number of establishments and receipts at the state and county levels by two-digit NAICS code.



Disaster Data Tools

From [census.gov](https://www.census.gov/emergency-management) Emergency Management Hub:

- My Community Explorer (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/13a111e06ad242fba0fb62f25199c7dd/page/Page-1>)
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management (<https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/em/>)
- Census Business Builder (<https://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html>)
- Census Business Builder Report Quick Lookup (<https://uscensus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=c65f3f397a3d4956aa061695a3c4c829>)
- Community Resilience Estimates (<https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=54292fa3918e425a8717259f930274fb>)

America Counts: Stories Behind the Numbers

- America Counts: Stories Behind the Numbers (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories.html>)
- America Counts: Stories About Emergency Management (<https://www.census.gov/topics/preparedness/stories.html>)
- Measuring Weather's Impact on Business (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2024/10/business-weather-impact.html>)
- Hurricane Helene's Impact on the Socially Vulnerable (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2024/10/hurricane-helene.html>)

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/preparedness-month.html>

Measuring the Nation's Social and Economic Well-Being

		2025	2024	
	Median household income (in 2025 inflation-adjusted dollars)		\$87,460	\$85,210
	Percentage of people in poverty		10.2%	10.7%
	Supplemental Poverty Measure		13.1%	13.0%
	Percentage of people without health insurance		7.9%	8.0%

Note: "—" indicates that change is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.



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

Source: Current Population Survey, 2025 and 2026 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC), www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/complete.html

Official Poverty Measure



Poverty rate decreased
from 2024 estimate

Note: All statistical significance is at the 90% confidence level.



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

Source: Current Population Survey, 2025 and 2026 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC), www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/complete.html

Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)



SPM not statistically different from
2024 estimate

Note: All statistical significance is at the 90% confidence level.



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

Source: Current Population Survey, 2025 and 2026 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC), www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/complete.html

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 Binahta'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.



KEEP IT CLEAN, KEEP IT GREEN

Working together for a cleaner, healthier community



RECYCLING TIPS: SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

Reduce waste. Recycle right.

Protect our land for future generation.

Recycling is one of the easiest ways we can all help protect our environment, conserve natural resources, and keep our communities clean and beautiful. By following a few simple tips, every household can make a big difference.



THANK YOU
for doing
you part!

TOP RECYCLING TIPS

CLEAN AND DRY RECYCLABLES

Rinse containers and let them dry before placing them in the recycling bin. Food and liquid can contaminate other materials.

FLATTEN CARDBOARD BOXES

This save space in you bin and helps during transportation

RECYCLE PAPER PRODUCTS

Newspaper, magazines, office paper, and cardboard are recyclable. Keep paper dry and free from food.

RECYCLE PLASTIC BOTTLES AND CONTAINERS

Check with your local program about accepted plastics. Remove caps if required.

RECYCLE ALUMINUM AND STEEL CANS.

Rinse cans and place them in the recycling bin.

RECYCLE GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS.

Recycle glass when accepted. Do not include broken glass unless allowed.

KEEP RECYCLABLES LOOSE.

Do not put recyclables in plastic bags unless your local program allows it.

REDUCE BEFORE YOU RECYCLE

USE REUSABLE ITEMS

Use reusable shopping bags, water bottles, and coffeecups

BUY WISELY

Choose products with minimal packaging.

REPAIR OR DONATE

Fix items when possible or donate gently use items instead of throwing them away

REUSE WHEN YOU CAN

Reuse containers for storage, organizing or community projects

DID YOU KNOW?

Recycling 1 ton newspaper saves:

- 17 Trees
- 7,000 gallon of water
- 380 gallons of oil
- Enough energy to power a home for 6 months



WHAT GOES WHERE

YES RECYCLE THESE



NEWSPAPER



MAGAZINES



CARDBOARDS



PLASTIC BOTTLES



ALUMINUM



GLASS

NO! DO NOT RECYCLE THESE



SAY NO TO ILLEGAL DUMPING



Illegal dumping harms our land, pollutes our water, and puts our health at risk. It also costs our communities money that could be used for important programs and services.



It hurts wildlife and destroys habitats.



It pollutes our soil, water, and air.



It lowers property values and affects our quality of life

Bini'ant'áátsoh



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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