

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníílgíí Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Wóózhch'ííjd

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Did You Know...

For the Navajo (Diné) people, running at dawn is more than just exercise—it's a way to connect with the earth and start the day with strength.

This tradition teaches discipline, resilience, and harmony. Many run toward the rising sun, embracing renewal and respect for nature.
Read More: <https://bit.ly/3RtTlyc>

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

Events:

March: Wóózhch'ííjd - Cry of Baby Eaglets

- March 4: Mardi Gras
- March 7: Employee Appreciation Day
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 9: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 14: Pi Day
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 20: Spring Equinox

April: T'áächil - Little Leaves

- April 1: April Fool's Day
- April 15: Tax Day
- April 18: Good Friday
- April 20: Easter Sunday
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 23: Administrative Professionals Day



Photos via [Pax Harvey FB](#)

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Invests in Leadership Training

The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development (DCD) is taking proactive steps to strengthen leadership within its organization. To enhance management skills and workplace efficiency, DCD is providing professional development training for its departmental managers and supervisors.

This initiative reflects the Navajo Nation's commitment to empowering its leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to improve communication, team collaboration, and decision-making. By investing in leadership development, DCD aims to foster a work culture centered on growth, accountability, and innovation.

The Importance of Professional Development

Effective leadership is essential for organizations that serve communities. For the DCD, which oversees community planning, infrastructure projects, and local governance support, having well-trained managers ensures that services are delivered efficiently and professionally.

Through these training sessions, managers will develop stronger leadership abilities, improved communication strategies, and better conflict resolution skills. These tools will help them lead with confidence and build stronger, more effective teams.

Impact on the Division of Community Development

The professional development initiative is expected to bring long-term benefits to DCD, including:

- Stronger leadership and decision-making skills among managers and supervisors
- Improved workplace morale and teamwork
- Enhanced communication within departments and with community stakeholders
- Greater efficiency in executing community development projects

By strengthening leadership at all levels, the DCD will be better equipped to serve Navajo communities with improved project management and a renewed commitment to community progress.

A Commitment to Growth and Excellence

This leadership training reflects the DCD's dedication to continuous improvement and professional excellence. By investing in its workforce, the division ensures its leaders are prepared to navigate challenges, inspire their teams, and drive meaningful change within the Navajo Nation



----- DCD Departments Collaborate for Strategic Planning and Project Implementation

On March 25-26, 2025, the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development (DCD) departments convened for a two-day strategic planning session aimed at enhancing departmental efficiency and accelerating capital development projects. The event brought together key stakeholders from Administration, CPMD, CHID, ASC, Solid Waste Management, and Rural Addressing to foster collaboration and streamline operations.

Day 1: Strategic Planning with Pax Harvey

Facilitated by Pax Harvey of Pax Harvey Consulting, the first day focused on laying the groundwork for a cohesive strategic direction. Participants engaged in a comprehensive SWOT analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and

threats within the organization. The session continued with the development of a clear vision and mission statement to align departmental objectives with the broader goals of the Navajo Nation. Additionally, participants worked on defining goal statements and actionable objectives to guide future initiatives.

Day 2: Enhancing Capital Project Efficiency with Candice Yazzie

The second day, led by DCD Division Director Candice Yazzie, was dedicated to developing a comprehensive report on improving the processing and implementation of capital development projects. Discussions covered essential aspects such as an overview and background on current challenges, departmental goals and plans for overcoming obstacles, and a concluding strategy to enhance efficiency. The outcome of this session will serve as a roadmap for expediting project timelines and ensuring timely execution of community development initiatives.



This collaborative effort underscores DCD's commitment to improving service delivery and addressing critical infrastructure needs across the Navajo Nation. By fostering strategic alignment and operational efficiency, the departments are taking proactive steps toward sustainable community development and growth



March Highlights

The Administrative Services Centers (ASC) department remained steadfast in its commitment to supporting the Navajo Nation's 110 chapters throughout March 2025. With a continued focus on technical assistance, governance training, and compliance guidance, ASC local offices facilitated events aimed at strengthening local governance and enhancing financial and policy management. A key priority for the department has been providing orientation sessions for newly elected chapter officials. In March, ASC continued this effort by hosting the Eastern Agency Chapter Official Orientation from March 17-19, 2025, at San Juan College in Farmington, NM. This session provided essential training on chapter operations, financial procedures, and policy adherence to help officials navigate their leadership roles effectively. ASC remains committed to equipping chapter officials and administrative staff with the knowledge and tools necessary to serve their communities successfully. As the department progresses through 2025, it will continue offering essential training and resources to strengthen local governance across all agencies.

Welcome Our New Team Members!

We're excited to announce that our team continues to grow! In March 2025, we welcomed two new staff members: one Office Specialist and one Accounts Maintenance Specialist. Their expertise and dedication will help strengthen our department's ability to support chapter officials and communities across the Navajo Nation. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome as they begin their journey with us!

New Staff:

Charmayne M. Byjoe

Sanostee Chapter Accounts Maintenance Specialist
Started on Monday, March 24, 2025

Regina Reid

Tuba City ASC Office Specialist
Started on Monday, March 24, 2025

March 2025

- *March 03, 2025*
Dilkon ASC met at the Navajo County - Chevelon Canyon Conference Room for a Work Session with the CHID Program Consultant with Dilkon ASC Chapters
- *March 05, 2025*
Crownpoint ASC hosted their staff meeting with the chapters via Google Meet
- *March 13, 2025*
Dilkon ASC gathered with the Indian Wells Chapter at Twin Arrows: Conference Room to assist with a review of their CLUPC Manual
- *March 13, 2025*
Chinle ASC met with their chapters at the Pinon Chapter to go over: Budget Process, Records Management, Five Management System, and Program Updates
- *March 15, 2025*
Shiprock ASC represented the department at the Northern Agency Council Meeting at Tse Alnaoztii, NM.
- *March 17 - 19, 2025*
The ASC Department hosted the Eastern Agency Chapter Official Orientation at San Juan College in Farmington, NM
- *March 25, 2025*
Kayenta ASC attended the meeting with Red Mesa Chapter House and CDBG's Jerome Myers
- *March 27, 2025*
Tuba City ASC hosted their staff meeting at the Tuba City Chapter House with invited guests Rodegerick Begay and Cynthia Freeman from the NDOJ to go over "DOJ Training Chapter 101" and "Chapter Budget & Fund Management Plan"

Community Land Use Planning Meeting

On March 13, 2025, the Indian Wells Chapter Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) gathered at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort for an important discussion on their CLUPC manual. Facilitated by Mary Ann Begay, the meeting focused on reviewing the Land Use Plan and ensuring alignment with the chapter's vision for growth and development.

Our Dilkon ASC Office was in attendance to provide guidance, helping chapter representatives navigate key policies and planning strategies. This meeting marked a vital step in empowering the Indian Wells Chapter to take an active role in shaping the future of their community.



Chinle ASC Hosts Informative Meeting at Pinon Chapter

On March 13, 2025, the Chinle ASC Local Office hosted an important meeting at the Pinon Chapter House, bringing together chapter officials and staff for a series of informative sessions. The meeting covered key topics essential for effective chapter operations, including:

Budget Process

Presented by Robert Jumbo, ASO

Records Management

Led by Robert Jumbo, ASO

Five Management System

Discussed by Edgerton Gene, SPPS

Program Updates

Provided by Jaron Charley, Department Manager II

These sessions provided valuable insights into financial procedures, records organization, and governance structures, reinforcing the department's commitment to equipping chapters with the knowledge and tools necessary for efficient administration.

The Chinle ASC Office remains dedicated to supporting local chapters through continued training and guidance, ensuring they have the resources needed to serve their communities effectively.



Strengthening Local Governance: Chapter Officials Orientations Continue

From March 17-19, 2025, the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) hosted the latest installment of the Chapter Officials Orientation series at San Juan College in Farmington, NM. This session was specifically designed for newly elected officials from the Eastern Agency chapters, equipping them with essential training on Navajo Nation governance, policies, and financial management.



With 110 chapter houses across the Navajo Nation, each with elected leadership, these orientations play a crucial role in ensuring officials have the knowledge and tools necessary to serve their communities effectively.

Local ASC offices that played a key role in planning and hosting this event included:

Crownpoint ASC Office:

Heather Yazzie-Kinlacheeny, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist
Cecelia Toledo, Administrative Services Officer
Adrianna Carviso, Office Specialist

Gallup ASC Office:

Guarena Adeky, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist
Myrna James, Administrative Services Officer



Chapter Official Orientation

The three-day agenda covered critical topics and provided an in-depth overview of key responsibilities and resources available to chapter officials:

Day 1 featured opening remarks from division leaders and presentations on capital project management, community housing and infrastructure, and the Navajo Nation Addressing Authority. Attendees then engaged in breakout sessions covering land administration, IT support, rural addressing, ARPA funding, and administrative services.

Day 2 focused on governance and ethics training, with sessions led by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (DOJ). Topics included Title 26 governance laws, procurement regulations, ethics in government, and conflict-of-interest policies, ensuring officials understood their legal responsibilities and the frameworks guiding their decision-making.

Day 3 was dedicated to administrative and financial management, with ASC staff leading discussions on meeting facilitation, financial reporting, local supervision, and travel policies. The event concluded with a general session where participants reflected on the training and discussed their next steps as chapter leaders.

ASC remains committed to strengthening local governance and ensuring that every chapter official is well-prepared to lead their communities with confidence and expertise.



Groundbreaking Ceremony Celebrates "Gratitude Blessings for Water" for the Vanderwagon Water System Project

March 24, 2025

Chichitah Chapter, New Mexico

The community gathered for a momentous occasion at the project site to celebrate the groundbreaking of a vital water infrastructure project. The event, themed "Gratitude Blessings for Water," honored the significance of water resources and the collaborative efforts that brought the project to fruition.

The ceremony began with an Invocation, setting a reverent tone for the day, followed by Welcome and Introductions led by key community leaders. A brief overview of the Project History highlighted the years of planning, advocacy, and partnership that paved the way for this milestone.

At the project site, distinguished guests and speakers addressed the audience, sharing their insights on the importance of water access and infrastructure for the community. Virgil Chee, Pastor of Pine Tree Mission, provided spiritual guidance, while Roselyn John, Community Services Coordinator, who also served as the emcee for the afternoon, spoke on the project's impact. Seth Damon, NM Indian Affairs Department Deputy Secretary & Nihi Naanit'aa'i, and Jason John, Navajo Nation Water Resources Director, underscored the project's significance for the region. Andrew Robertson of Souder Miller & Associates

shared technical insights on the planning and execution of the initiative.



Monica Cordova, NM Indian Affairs Department Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund Coordinator, delivered remarks on the critical role of state funding in making this project possible and reaffirmed continued support for tribal infrastructure projects.

Honorable Dr. Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation President, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the project's long-term benefits for future generations and the need for continued investment in water infrastructure for Navajo communities.

Adding a cultural touch, storyteller Sunny Dooley, a renowned Hózhóǫ́jí Hane' Teller, along with young community members Shaylyn, Shenoa, and Shyann Nelson & Zaiden Begay, delivered heartfelt reflections on the value of water in Navajo traditions.



Attendees included Cal Curley, staff member from the office of U.S. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, as well as New Mexico Representative Martha Garcia. The chapter also extended its gratitude to Senator George Muñoz and the late Representative Eliseo Alcon, both of whom strongly supported this project from its inception.

The contractor for the project is Dooley Construction Solutions, based in Rio Rancho, NM, which will oversee the construction and implementation of this critical water infrastructure.

Following the groundbreaking, the program continued with a community lunch at Broken Arrow Ranch Facility, where attendees gathered to celebrate and reflect on the day's significance.

The Blessing of the Food was given by Elsie Dooley, a respected community member, offering gratitude for the nourishment and the collective efforts that made the project possible.

This groundbreaking marks the beginning of a crucial initiative to enhance water accessibility, reinforcing the community's commitment to sustainability, cultural preservation, and collective progress.

Farewell to Mr. Dwayne Waseta: A Legacy of Progress and Dedication

After a brief but impactful twenty months with the Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD), Mr. Dwayne Waseta has retired as the Director on March 21, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of commitment and strategic planning. Since his return to the Navajo Nation in 2023, Mr. Waseta has tackled several challenges related to both State of New Mexico and Navajo Nation projects, demonstrating his expertise in community development—whether in housing or commercial infrastructure.

Bringing with him a wealth of knowledge, Mr. Waseta played a pivotal role in addressing a backlog of projects that had been stalled for four years. Within his first year, he worked closely with his department's team to develop a structured approach to initiate these projects, streamlining processes and setting a foundation for efficiency. His ability to assess and undertake the most feasible projects has significantly contributed to the department's progress and success.



As he prepares to move on, Mr. Waseta leaves behind a set of goals and objectives to guide CPMD toward continued growth and achievement. His leadership and insights have equipped the department with a clear path forward, ensuring that the momentum he helped create will persist.

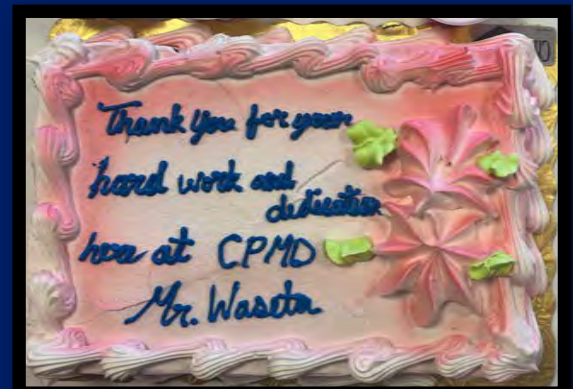
In parting, Mr. Waseta shared words of encouragement with his colleagues, urging them to maintain a "PMA"—Positive Mental Attitude. His optimism

and dedication will undoubtedly leave a lasting imprint on the department and the many communities he has helped to serve.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Waseta for his service and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.



**GONE FISHING -- BLUE WATER LAKE, NM
-- MARCH 2025**



Housing Improvement Program Updates

Hooghan háádadilne'go da'iniísh

Navajo Nation Housing Improvement Program: Delivering Homes, Changing Lives



The Housing Improvement Program (HIP) continues to make a significant impact on the Navajo Nation, delivering quality homes to those in need. To date, HIP has successfully provided homes to seventeen (17) applicants across the Navajo Nation. These homes, measuring 16 feet by 52 feet, feature two bedrooms and one bathroom and are built to HIP specifications to ensure quality, durability, and comfort for residents.

The HIP program is dedicated to improving the living conditions of Navajo families, especially for elders, disabled individuals, and low-income households. By constructing homes that meet high standards, HIP ensures that recipients receive safe and sustainable housing solutions.

Each home is designed to be energy-efficient and structurally sound, taking into account the unique environmental and geographical factors of the Navajo Nation.



Housing Improvement Program

Rita M. Begay
Program Manager I
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HIP Con't



On February 12, 2025, Irene Ashley, a resident of Red Valley, AZ, received the keys to her new home. HIP Construction Supervisor Irvin Shorty, HIP Construction Carpenter Daryl Benally, and HIP Planner/Estimator Emmett Tsosie were on hand to present her with the keys. After years of applying, Ms. Ashley finally received her home and expressed her heartfelt appreciation, thanking the HIP program and its dedicated personnel for making her dream a reality. Overcome with emotion, she shared how this home represents stability and security for her future..

Just two days later, on February 14, 2025, HIP proudly handed over the keys to another new homeowner. Navajo elder Tulley


Benally of Sweetwater, AZ, received his home keys from HIP Construction Supervisor Irvin Shorty and HIP Planner/Estimator Emmett Tsosie. Overjoyed by the moment, Mr. Benally expressed his gratitude to the HIP construction team and all involved in the project. To celebrate this milestone, his family hosted a well-deserved luncheon for everyone in attendance. Having applied to the program for over ten years, Mr. Benally commended the HIP personnel and contractors for their outstanding craftsmanship. He also shared that receiving this home has given him peace of mind and a sense of independence in his golden years.

The success of HIP is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire team. From the initial planning stages to the final construction, every step of the process is handled with care and precision. The program's goal is not only to provide homes but to create long-lasting, positive changes in the lives of recipients.


HIP continues to seek opportunities to expand and improve its services, ensuring that more Navajo families can benefit from safe and quality housing. With each home delivered, the program reinforces its mission to uplift the community, providing hope and security to those who need it most.

These recent home deliveries underscore the continued success of the Housing Improvement Program in providing high-quality housing to Navajo Nation residents. HIP remains dedicated to its mission of improving the lives of individuals and families by addressing housing needs with care and commitment.





Public Service Announcement



Dear relatives and community members,

We are calling on all residents to help protect our sacred Navajo lands by using the designated solid waste bins and transfer stations provided by your local chapters. Our land is precious, and together we can keep it beautiful for future generations.

Navajo Chapter has proper waste disposal facilities and transfer stations available for your use. By bringing your trash to these designated locations, you help prevent environmental damage and protect our community's health and well-being. Illegal dumping harms our Mother Earth, threatens our water sources, and disrespects our traditional values of living in harmony with the land.

Remember: Your local chapter's solid waste facilities and transfer stations are there to serve you. Transfer stations accept a wide range of household waste and often have specific areas for different types of materials.

Please contact your chapter house to learn about:

- Transfer station and disposal locations
- Hours of operation
- Accepted materials
- Fees may apply

Together, we can preserve the beauty of Diné Bikéyah for generations to come. Let's work together as one community to keep our homeland clean.

Ahe'hee' from the Solid Waste, Division of Community Development

P: 505 - 318 -6860





**Community Land Use Planning
March 2025
Planning News**

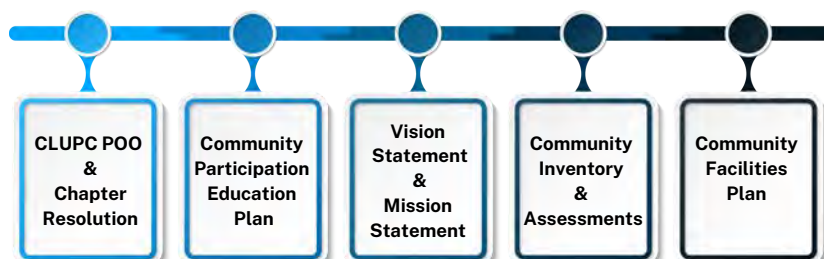
The Navajo Nation community land use planning process focuses on the thoughtful management and allocation of land to support sustainable development, preserve cultural heritage, and meet the community's diverse needs. This approach ensures that land is utilized efficiently and responsibly to address present demands while preparing for future growth. The Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) orientation is guided by the Navajo Nation Code Title 26 requirements, Section 2004.

Of the 110 Navajo Chapters, 98 have completed Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) orientations and implementation efforts. Over the past year, several chapters have updated and recertified their land use planning manuals. As part of the orientation process, I conduct training sessions for CLUPC committees on effectively utilizing resources and information to enhance their planning capabilities.

Coalmine Chapter 03/2025



SECTIONS TO BE COMPLETED:



**Community Planning
Orientations**

March 17, 2025 at SJC

- Baca/Prewitt
- Casamero Lake
- Counselor
- Lake Valley
- Littlewater
- Ojo Encino
- Pueblo Pintado
- Torreon/Star Lake
- Becenti
- Crownpoint
- Huerfano
- Nageezi
- Nahodishgish
- Tse'ii'ahi
- White Rock
- Alamo
- Baahaali
- Chichiltah
- Manuelito
- Red Rock
- Rock Springs
- Tseyatoh
- Church Rock
- Iyanbito
- Mariano lake
- Pinedale
- Ramah
- Smith Lake
- Thoreau
- Tohajiilee

Total 30
CHAPTERS

Chapters & Technical Assistance

15
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
REQUESTS



March

Individual CLUPC Orientations

- Littlewater Chapter
- Houck Chapter
- Tse Si Ani Chapter

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bidadiljjeehi

New Mexico bill would provide 'turquoise' safety alert when Native Americans go missing

Published: Mar. 24, 2025, 5:00 a.m.

The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – A bill that would create a "turquoise" safety alert system for missing Native American people in New Mexico has been endorsed by the Legislature.

A vote of the state Senate without opposition Thursday sent the rapid response initiative to New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, who supports the proposal.

The bill responds to a troubling number of disappearances and killings in Indian Country – and would allow law enforcement to quickly share information about Native Americans who go missing.

The "turquoise alert" system – taking its name from the blue-green mineral – would function much like existing "amber" and "silver" alerts that highlight the disappearance of children and the elderly. Cellphone alerts would be issued when law enforcement finds evidence of imminent danger in the disappearance of a Native American.

"I carry with me countless stories of how our system has failed to respond to the disappearance or murder of Native people in our state," said Democratic state Sen.



Angel Charley of Acoma Pueblo, a co-sponsor of the bill. "We have answered the call."

California, Washington and Colorado have similar alert systems, according to the New Mexico Department of Indian Affairs.

Arizona lawmakers are considering their own alert system as the brutal death of San Carlos Apache teenager Emily Pike reverberates through Native American communities..

Read More: <https://bit.ly/4lc1xkg>

NN Addressing Authority Welcome Jasper Rodgers to the Team!



My name is Jasper Samuel Rodgers, and I've been working with GIS for approximately 25 years, focusing on areas like land use planning, utilities, and natural resources. My introduction to GIS technology began in 2000 during a collaborative project with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority GIS/GPS Mapping Project. Since then, I've pursued a deeper understanding of GIS through a combination of self-study, practical experience, and formal education. I'm familiar with software such as ArcGIS, QGIS, and AutoCAD, and I strive to develop practical geospatial solutions for various mapping needs. I've also had the opportunity to work independently as a consultant. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Geography with an emphasis in Geographic Information Science and a minor in Mathematics from the University of New Mexico, and I'm particularly interested in how GIS can contribute to sustainable community development.

Outside of my professional work, I have a few personal interests. I enjoy tackling DIY projects, particularly in general automotive repair and carpentry. I also find computer science and IT interesting, and have dabbled in PC building and home networking. Additionally, I've picked up some mechanical engineering shop skills over time, including using hand tools, power tools, 3D printing, soldering, electrical testing and welding. During the warmer months, I enjoy roller skating and playing frisbee with my son.

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

The Navajo Researcher Recovering A Desert Peach Variety

by David Condos, on March 29, 2025

When you imagine a ripe, juicy peach, you might not picture it growing in a red rock canyon. Centuries ago, however, tribes in the Four Corners cultivated vast orchards of an heirloom variety called the Southwest peach.

Today, a young tree next to Reagan Wytsalucy's home in Blanding is one of few examples left in this part of southeast Utah.

"I have three kids. They don't realize how privileged they are that they have actually had this fruit," she said. "There's so many kids that don't even know that this tree exists or that their ancestors grew these abundantly."

Wytsalucy, a plant scientist with the Utah State University extension in San Juan County and a member of the Navajo Nation, said this peach was a vital part of the Indigenous diet and trade economy for hundreds of years. Accounts from Spanish missions describe sprawling orchards grown by Pueblo Indians as early as the 1630s.

The Southwest peach is smaller and less sweet than what you find at the supermarket. Its flavor also varies based on which part of the region it's from, she said. Some taste like melon. Others have a hint of cinnamon. Traditionally, Navajo people would dry peaches to preserve them for the following year, and one tree could feed a whole family. Now, however, less than 2% of the peach's historic orchards remain. For nearly a decade Wytsalucy has knocked on doors across the Southwest to find where the trees still exist and study how to bring more of them back.

"I want to be able to taste this fruit that my father remembers tasting," she said. "And I want my father to be able to taste this fruit again, too."

Wytsalucy crouched next to her sapling and pointed out the spots where she expects to see peach blossoms next year.

This tree propagated from a seed she collected in the Navajo Mountain area near Lake Powell, and she's growing more like it on research plots in northern Utah and New Mexico.



Reagan Wytsalucy examines corn growing in a community garden she helped start next to the Navajo Nation in southeast Utah, Sept. 18, 2024. Credit: David Condos/KUER

Her goal is to eventually have enough peach seeds so tribes can establish new orchards and Native families can plant trees for themselves. For tribal communities, it represents more than just fresh fruit.

"There are ceremonial connections — prayers, songs, processes that completely involve the peach tree," she said. "That is a huge indicator for me and for our people that this is something that has been historically tied to our people ... possibly even as long as corn, beans and squash."

So why did the Southwest peach nearly vanish? A lot of it was intentional.

In 1863, the federal government drove the Navajo people out of their homelands, forcing them to walk some 300 miles to the Bosque Redondo reservation at an Army fort in New Mexico. The U.S. military then burned and cut down Navajo orchards, decimated their crops and slaughtered their livestock.

"Our food systems were destroyed, and in 2024 we've yet to recover," said Chef Bleu Adams, who comes from the tribal communities of Diné (Navajo), Mandan and Hidatsa.

Adams co-founded Black Sheep Cafe in Provo and directs Indigehub, an organization based in Window Rock, Arizona, that supports Native farming.

Before the 1860s, she said Native people kept the land in balance. The livestock, the soil health and the crops interacted in harmony so farming could be successful in the arid landscape. Even though an 1868 treaty allowed Navajo people to leave Bosque Redondo and return home, it wasn't easy to bounce back from that type of destruction.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3RtF9oU>



Bulletin Board

A Navajo Nation community has running water after waiting nearly 25 years

WESTWATER, UTAH -

It took nearly 25 years to figure out how to supply running water to homes in Westwater, a small Navajo community in southeastern Utah. At Thomas Chee's house, the final waterline connection took 8 minutes.

The construction crew needed just seconds Tuesday to clip a pipe – formerly the connection between a cistern and the house – and reconnect it to brand-new plumbing tied to the nearby city of Blanding. Within 6 minutes, Chee and the crew turned on and checked the faucets.

"There you go," Chee, the community's

president, said as the kitchen faucet ran. "It's beautiful."

In the 21-house community, Westwater residents have been watching construction machinery trundle from house to house, removing cisterns and connecting pipes since March 13. The sight was long-awaited: The community and its partners spent years pulling together a budget of \$4.3 million, overcoming bureaucratic hurdles, dealing with delays and wrangling support across government jurisdictions to make the water project happen.

Now, the community has clean, reliable running water instead of relying on storing water in underground tanks and hauling water jugs from nearby filling stations. The



Westwater resident Thomas Chee tests the flow of water at his kitchen sink after his home was connected to a new running water system for the first time March 18, 2025. (Shannon Mullane, The Colorado Sun)

Westwater project is one of many efforts to provide reliable water to communities around the 27,000-square-mile Navajo Nation reservation, where 30%-40% of homes lack access to running water. Residents are already looking ahead, whether they are shopping for washing machines, making garden plans or exploring ways to use their experiences to help other communities.

"It took a whole lifetime just about," Chee, 47, said Tuesday, his voice choking up slightly as he stood in his kitchen while the construction crew wrapped up outside. "I

know my grandparents would be happy. They're smiling upon us right now."

Westwater is a tight-knit subdivision with 29 plots spread across 120 acres of desert scrubland outside the main Navajo Nation reservation in San Juan County, Utah. From their backyards, Westwater residents can see homes in Blanding – fully outfitted with amenities like sprinklers, internet and electricity – less than 1 mile away across a narrow ravine.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3QVbn7y>

Nenahnezad Chapter Hosts Navajo Programs Orientation

Henry C. Silentman

Nenahnezad, NM – On March 14, 2025, the Nenahnezad Chapter hosted a Northern Agency Chapters Workshop in Fruitland, New Mexico.

The event featured presentations from various programs within the Navajo Nation, focusing on business development, land use, capital project management, business regulation and Navajo tourism. The purpose of the workshop to inform and engage the northern communities.

Shiprock RBDO staff delivered presentations on the Navajo Nation Business Site Leasing Process and the Business Site Leasing Authority for

Navajo Nation chapters. The Navajo Nation Business Leasing of 2005 provides the framework for Navajo Nation to exercise its authority to lease trust land on the Navajo Nation without Bureau of Indian Affairs approval while the Uniform Business Site Leasing provides the opportunity

for Navajo Nation Chapters to pass their own leasing regulations and lease out land under its own authority. Denise Copeland from the Capital Project Management

Department delivered a thorough presentation about the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) processes. Ms. Copeland demonstrated her vast knowledge and experience in working with capital outlay projects funded by the New Mexico, Arizona and Utah legislatures. She outlined the steps from chapter needs assessment to project inception, selection, implementation- and compliance. Ms. Copeland stressed the need to ensure the responsible development of infrastructure and other capital projects.

Business Regulatory and Navajo Tourism departments rounded out the presentations to discuss business regulatory compliance and tourism

priorities for the Navajo Nation. Rose T. Morgan from Tourism Department focused on the opportunities for tourism development across the Navajo Nation. The event served as a great platform for the chapters to gain insights into critical Navajo Nation programs and processes.

For more information about hosting a similar training, contact the Shiprock RBDO.

Read More at: <https://bit.ly/42zoEnt>



NENAHNEZAD, NM – CHAPTER STAFF AND ELECTED LEADERS LISTEN TO THE CPMD STAFF DENISE COPELAND AND KATHERINE LARGO

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Postitions

Naanish ʼaa'idaat'ehigii

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$31,257.36	4/2/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Standing Rock, NM	\$31,257.36	4/2/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sawmill, AZ	\$31,257.36	4/9/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rock Point, AZ	\$31,257.36	4/3/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Iyanito, NM	\$31,257.36	4/3/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Oak Springs, AZ	\$31,257.36	4/10/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	\$31,257.36	4/4/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Canyon, AZ	\$31,257.36	4/4/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Blue Gap, NM	\$31,257.36	4/4/2025

Navajo Addressing Authority Department

Office Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$31,257.36	4/3/2025
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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/>

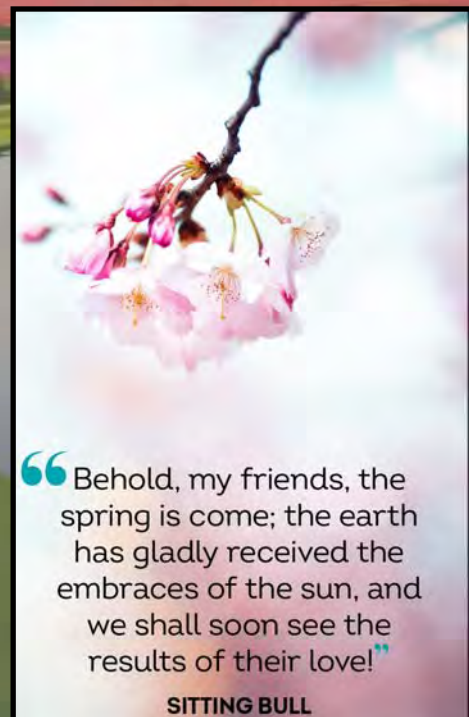
Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigii Naashch'aa'



Quote of the Month

Saad Baa' Nitsáhakeesigii



Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

Pi Day: March 14, 2025

March 14, 2025

Press Release Number: CB25-SFS.04

In 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.Res.224 officially designating March 14 as "National Pi Day," recognizing the date as an approximation of the mathematical constant Pi (3.14) and encouraging schools to celebrate the day with educational activities related to mathematics and Pi.

Pi is a never-ending number representing the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, approximately equal to 3.14. It's a mathematical constant because it's the same for every circle.

KEY STATS

Source: 2023 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year estimates

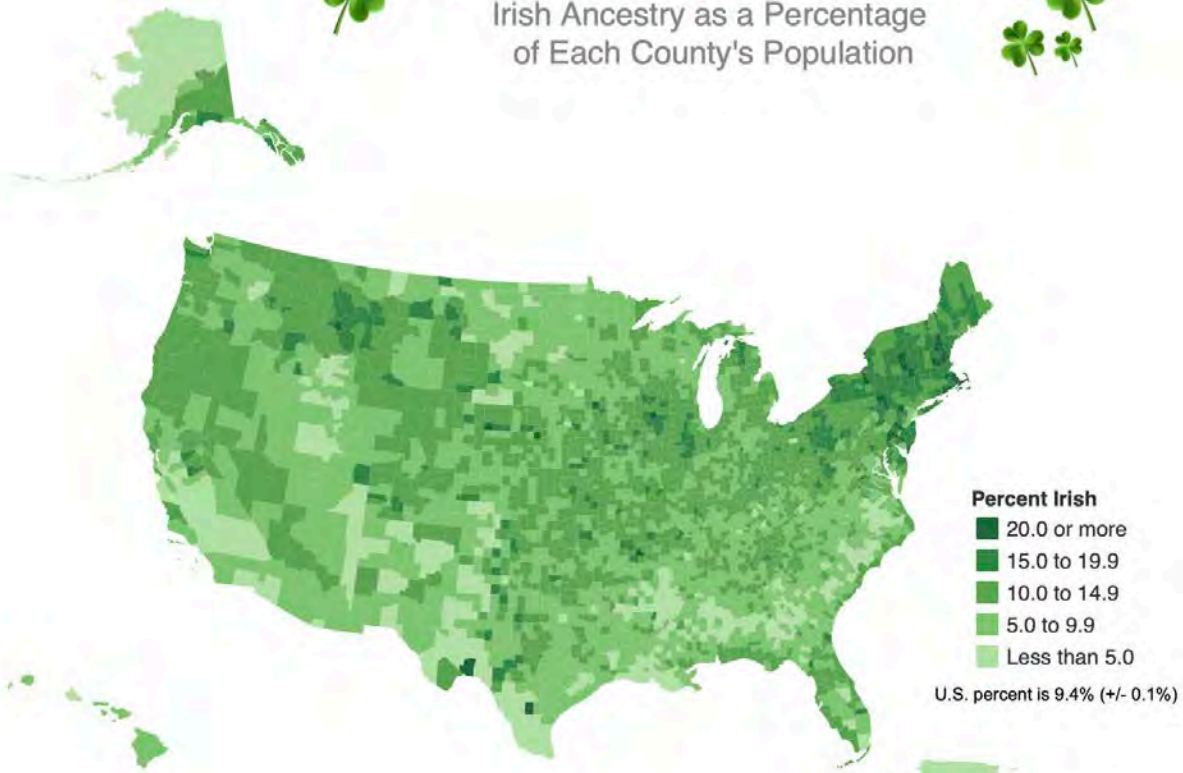
Table S2401, Occupation by Sex for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over

Label	United States				
	Total	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
✓ Civilian employed population 16 years and over	164,346,993	86,080,816	52.4%	78,266,177	47.6%
✓ Management, business, science, and arts occupations:	70,919,638	33,479,273	47.2%	37,440,365	52.8%
➤ Management, business, and financial occupations:	29,536,878	15,677,653	53.1%	13,859,225	46.9%
✓ Computer, engineering, and science occupations:	12,110,852	8,850,421	73.1%	3,260,431	26.9%
Computer and mathematical occupations	6,346,807	4,697,849	74.0%	1,648,958	26.0%
Architecture and engineering occupations	3,793,224	3,139,538	82.8%	653,686	17.2%
Life, physical, and social science occupations	1,970,821	1,013,034	51.4%	957,787	48.6%
➤ Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations:	18,706,701	6,346,915	33.9%	12,359,786	66.1%
➤ Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations:	10,565,207	2,604,284	24.6%	7,960,923	75.4%
➤ Service occupations:	26,983,243	11,651,690	43.2%	15,331,553	56.8%
➤ Sales and office occupations:	31,425,450	11,939,979	38.0%	19,485,471	62.0%
➤ Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations:	13,849,501	13,100,966	94.6%	748,535	5.4%
➤ Production, transportation, and material moving occupations:	21,169,161	15,908,908	75.2%	5,260,253	24.8%

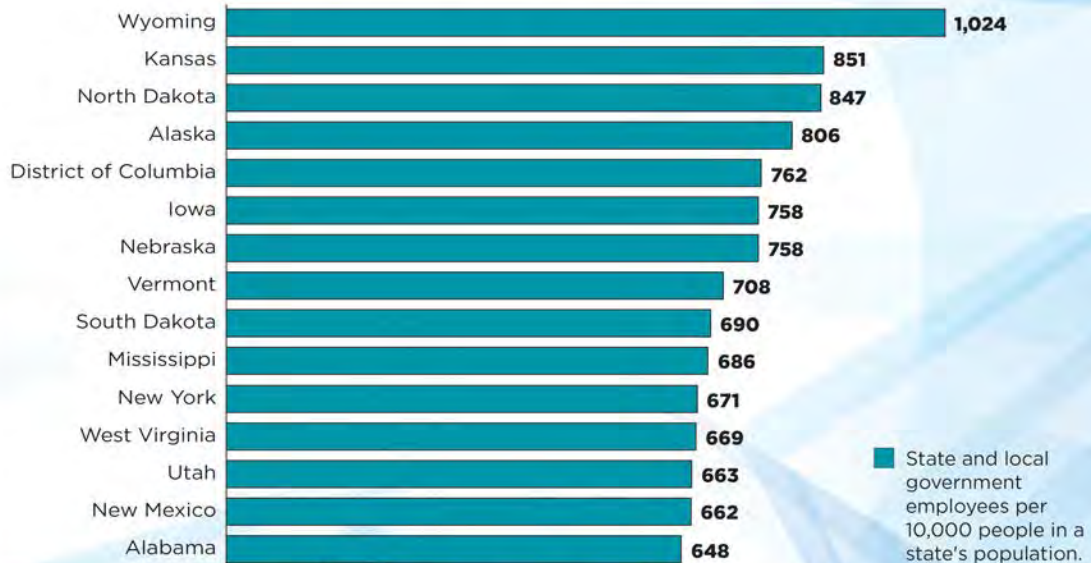
READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/pi-day.html>

Where Irish Eyes Are Smiling

Irish Ancestry as a Percentage of Each County's Population



Most Public Sector Employees Per 10,000 People: 2024



Note: Figures are rounded.



Protect Your Email – Safeguard Your Community

A Warning to Navajo Nation Chapters: Keep Your Email Passwords Safe



Did You Know?

Sharing your email password—even with someone you trust—can lead to serious risks for you, your chapter, and the Navajo Nation. Bad actors can exploit shared or stolen passwords to gain unauthorized access, causing harm to your operations and community.



The Dangers of Sharing Passwords

- **Unauthorized Access:** If your password falls into the wrong hands, someone could access your sensitive emails and misuse them.
- **Data Theft:** Critical chapter information could be stolen, exposing financial, operational, and personal data to criminals.
- **Impersonation:** Hackers can use your account to send harmful messages, scams, or misinformation, damaging your reputation and trust.
- **Community Impact:** A breach of one chapter email account could impact the entire chapter's operations and resources.



Real Consequences Include:

- **Financial Loss:** Fraudsters can manipulate email accounts to divert funds or steal donations.
- **Disruption of Services:** Hackers can lock you out of your account, halting critical communication and services.
- **Legal Troubles:** Mishandling sensitive information could result in compliance issues or penalties.



If You Think Your Account Has Been Compromised:

1. Change your password immediately.
2. Notify your chapter leadership and DCD IT support.
3. Review recent activity in your account for suspicious actions.



How to Protect Your Email Account

- **Never Share Your Password:** Your password is for you alone. Sharing it—even with colleagues—creates unnecessary risks.
- **Use Strong Passwords:** Create a unique password with a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using personal information like your birthday.
- **Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Add an extra layer of protection to your account. 2FA ensures only you can access your email, even if someone knows your password.
- **Watch for Scams:** Don't fall for phishing emails asking for your password or personal information. Legitimate organizations will never ask you for your password.



Stay Vigilant, Stay Safe

- Your email is a gateway to sensitive information. Protect it to protect your chapter and the Navajo Nation.
- For questions or help with email security, contact the Division of Community Development IT or your chapter's tech support, if available.

Together, we can keep our community safe from cyber threats. Don't let your guard down--secure your email today!



Division of
Community
Development

Wóózhch'íid 2025



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

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