



Dozens of law enforcement vehicles drive down Nizhoni Boulevard on Friday as they escort the hearse of fallen Navajo Nation Senior Police Officer Michael Lee, who died from COVID-19 early Friday morning.

NAVAJO TIMES | DONOVAN QUINTERO

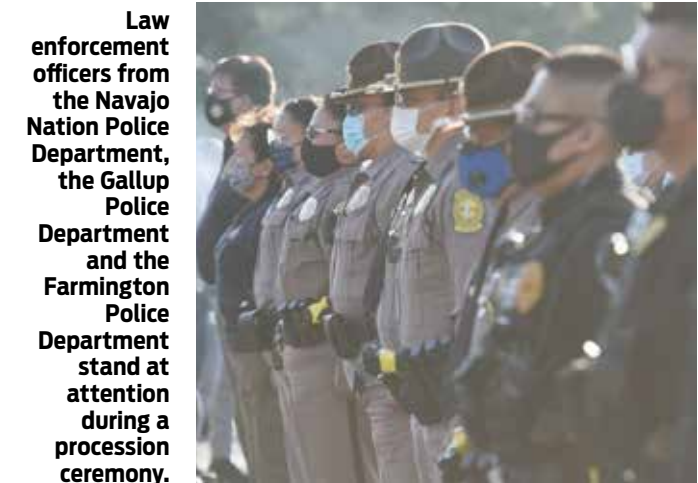
# ‘A GREAT LOSS’

## Academy classmate saddened by officer’s passing



Gallup Police officers offer their condolences to members of the Navajo Police Department and bump elbows instead of shaking hands on Friday after a procession for the hearse carrying Navajo Nation Senior Police Officer Michael Lee, who died from COVID-19.

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BY DONOVAN QUINTERO  
NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** – He was a husband, a father, and a Navajo Police officer.

Senior Police Officer Michael Lee was also in charge of putting smiles on children’s faces during Christmas in the Chinle District. He gave out toys in the “Toys4Tots” program and regularly traveled to California to haul donated toys back.

“My heart saddens as I express my deepest condolences to the family of Officer Michael Lee and ahxéhéé for your many years of service to the Navajo Nation,” Vernita Largo wrote on Saturday on the Navajo Police’s social media page after learning of Lee’s death due to COVID-19 on June 19.

“Children of (Navajo) Nation will miss you during Christmas,” she said, “you were Santa to them, you took long trips and hauled toys back to Nation just to brightened up a child’s face.”

Commander Roscoe Herrera, a fellow Navajo Law Enforcement Academy graduate, remembered his classmate from their days at the academy in Toyei, Arizona.

The academy then was notorious for having a high drop-out rate due to the demanding physical rigors drill instructors forced on police recruits.

“We all had to pull together to get through,” Herrera remembered. “We had to depend on each other and work as a team.”

After six months of pushing one another, studying for exams together, running and doing pushups together, Herrera said they got their badges pinned together.

Although it challenged him to stretch his memory back 29 years, Herrera remembered how they “went through hell” to become Navajo Nation Police officers.

He was not sure but recalled that 14 recruits become police officers that day in October of 1990, in the midst of the Gulf War. While many young Navajos prepared for war, Lee’s and Herrera’s services to the Navajo Nation had just begun.

SEE **SADDENED** | A2



SUBMITTED

Michael Lee

SEPT. 8, 1969  
- JUNE 19, 2020

BY CINDY YURTH  
TSÉYI’ BUREAU

**WINDOW ROCK** — On top of the fact that the seven domestic violence shelters that serve the Navajo Nation have been waiting eight months for the tribe to grant them contracts and release their federal pass-through funding, had their contracts revised three times and endured three changes of leadership at the tribal department that oversees them, the executive directors recently did some math and discovered that just over half the tribe’s Family Violence Prevention Act funding is coming to them.

The Navajo Nation gets a little more than \$1.8 million annually from the feds to fund DV services on the Navajo Nation, about nine percent of

the total for all the nation’s tribes.

But after adding up their individual grants, Emily Ellison, executive director of Battered Family Services in Gallup, discovered only \$960,000 of that is actually going to the shelters.

The Nation takes 30 percent of the grant for administrative services (by contrast, states are allowed to take five percent) — about \$540,000. But that still adds up to \$1.5 million. Where is the other \$300,000?

According to Brenda Tsosie, principal accountant for the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services, some of the federal grant money is going to fund the two domestic violence shelters run by the tribe, Gentle Ironhawk in Blanding, Utah, and the Northern T.R.E.E. house in Shiprock.

Those two shelters have already received their

allocations of the federal funds, which arrived on the Nation on Feb. 28.

Some of the other shelter directors question whether this is a legitimate use of Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act funding.

For starters, the Gentle Ironhawk shelter, purchased by the tribe in 2018 during the Russell Begaye administration, is not even open. Or rather, said Cindi Atene, the shelter’s principal witness victim advocate, “we’re semi-open.”

While the 30-bed shelter is still in the process of preparing to open its doors, she is answering an average of two calls a day — and referring the

SEE **HALF** | A3

# Lizer defends attendance at Trump event as lobbying

BY CINDY YURTH  
TSÉYI’ BUREAU

**WINDOW ROCK** — Vice President Myron Lizer was roundly criticized on social media Tuesday for attending a “Students for Trump” event in Phoenix on the Navajo Nation’s tab, but Lizer said Wednesday he used the event as an opportunity to corner some key congress people.

He said he wanted to keep the Navajo Nation in the forefront as the Nation lobbies for an extension of the deadline to spend the \$714 million it recently received from the federal government in coronavirus relief.

Lizer caught flak from what he calls the “armchair generals” on Facebook and Twitter for disregarding his own “stay home, stay safe, save lives” mantra, violating the Navajo Nation curfew and putting himself at risk for catching the coronavirus. In a telephone interview with the Times he disputed all those criticisms.

“The (Navajo Nation) president and I have been in hotspots all over the Navajo Nation delivering supplies,” he noted. “Chilchibeto, Kayenta, Chinle ... and nobody batted an eye.”

Actually, some people did bring up the fact that the president and vice president probably shouldn’t both be in hot zones at

SEE **DEFENDS** | A2

# Nez’s plan OK’d, with changes

BY ARLYSSA BECENTI  
NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** – President Jonathan Nez last Friday asked the Navajo Nation Council to move forward its their vote on Legislation 0116-19 — Nez’s plan for coronavirus relief funding — and to not add any more amendments.

After more than seven hours of discussion and adding six additional amendments, the Council approved the bill by a vote of 20-1.

A few weeks prior, the president had upset Council by line-item-vetoing its own plan for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding.

So it was more or less: You line-item veto us, we amend you.

The bill passed Friday in order to tap into the federal CARES Act funding, which grew to \$714 million this week, had been given two amendments at the Budget and Finance Committee and over 30 other amendments during the Naabik’iyati’ before it hit the Council floor.

“We got to move forward on this,” said Nez during his presentation to Council.

“There was some amendments that were given to us and some of them are concerning to us, but what we need to do now is move forward. No amendments, just move forward.”

“I’ve been doing my own requests to my community members on how we should use this funding,” said Budget and Finance Committee member Nathaniel Brown regarding Nez’s presentation. “As elected people for our community, we owe it to them to listen to them and bring their concerns forward to the Navajo Nation Council.

“Does he (Nez) want to legislate everything now?” he asked. “If he does, he can

SEE **CHANGES** | A3

# Only half of federal DV grant makes it to shelters



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**WHERE TO BUY**

The Times is sold in stores throughout the region.

navajotimes.com/  
contacts/locations





# Navajo Times closes for 2 weeks due to coronavirus

## NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** – The Navajo Times Publishing Company Inc. will close its doors for 14 days beginning June 19 due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to CEO/Publisher Tommy Arviso Jr., the Navajo Times newspaper will not be printed for the next two weeks, the June 25 and July 2 issues. The Navajo Times will, however, publish, the regular online E-edition during those two weeks and post articles on its website (navajotimes.com). Arviso said, “Two members of our Navajo Times team tested positive for the coronavirus on Thursday and so we immediately went into a 14-day

quarantine to protect our staff, our newspaper carriers and all of our customers and clients. “All of our staff have been tested and we will wait until all of the results have been received,” he said. “As a result of the testing, it is most important that we follow proper protocol and adhere to the 14-day quarantine period, as advised by the CDC.” According to Arviso, all staff will work remotely during the next two weeks so that readers of the Navajo Times will still get a newspaper on Thursday but it will be online and not a printed copy. “We intend to continue to provide quality journalism, advertising,

legal notices and classified advertising,” said Arviso. “It’s just that we will publish all of that information in an online issue. We’ve never missed a publishing date but we have been delayed a few times in the past due to mechanical or press issues. “This time we around we are ensuring that we do everything we can to keep our employees and customers safe and that includes not printing for two weeks,” said Arviso. “The coronavirus pandemic is a serious issue that we do not take lightly. We have been quite fortunate up to now that we have had no positive results among our staff. We will continue to be safe in all

that we do here at work.” Duane Beyal, editor of the Navajo Times, said this is a special kind of emergency that requires everyone to pull together and support one another. “Not publishing a newspaper you can hold in your hands goes against everything I’ve been trained to do,” Beyal said. “But this is a unique time in history and a threat from which we must protect our workers and customers.” Arviso explained that the Navajo Times office will be completely cleaned and sanitized on Saturday by a professional cleaning company. The staff will return to their office on July

6, after the conclusion of the July 4th holiday. For questions or more information on business, advertising and circulation issues, contact Arviso at 928-309-9447. For news and coverage, contact Beyal at 928-205-3185. “I hope that all of our readers, advertisers and the general public understand our situation here and that they continue to be safe and healthy in their private and public lives,” said Arviso. “The coronavirus is not going to go away for a long time and so we all need to do our part to support and protect one another by staying safe, at home and at work or school.”

## DEFENDS

FROM PAGE 1

the same time, and since then, “I’ve stayed home and let the president do most of the deliveries,” Lizer said. “In fact, I have been staying home,” he said. “Tuesday is the first time I’ve gone anywhere in a long time.” While many attending the Trump event at a Phoenix church were unmasked, Lizer said he wore both an N-95 mask and a cloth mask over that. “I took as many precautions as I could,” he said. He added that he left and returned to the Nation outside of curfew hours. Other posts on social media lambasted the vice president, a Republican, for attending an obvious campaign event on company time, but Lizer said he had been invited to the event — which the Trump administration had billed as a presidential visit rather than a campaign rally — as the vice president of the Navajo Nation rather than as an individual. He said he spent most of the event trying to find opportunities to connect with key state and federal officials who might be able to advance the Navajo cause. “We’re in a unique time,” he said. “All eyes are on Navajo right now. Sadly, it took a virus for people to see the issues we’re facing here, but I’m not above using it to advocate for our people. Why shouldn’t we use it for all it’s worth?” Lizer said he was able to connect with Sen. Martha McSally, Rep. Paul Gosar, Rep. Debbie Lesko, Arizona

Gov. Doug Ducey and others. “They all asked questions about Navajo,” he said. Unfortunately, the format of the meeting (which, if you watched it, looked very much like a campaign rally) did not allow for too much one-on-one time with the high-ranking GOP members, but Lizer said he informed all of them he would like to talk with them further at some point. He plans on returning to Phoenix tomorrow (Friday) at Ducey’s invitation to watch him sign legislation regarding the state’s college endowment fund, and hopes to bend the governor’s ear on Navajo issues. As one of very few Navajo Republicans holding high political office, Lizer says he has a “goal and a mission” to reach out to both the U.S. and Arizona administrations, where he may get a more friendly reception than President Jonathan Nez, who is a Democrat. “People may not like it, but this is how politics works,” said Lizer. “The more we’re out there being seen, the less likely people are to forget about us.” Asked whether both Ducey’s and Trump’s stands on the pandemic — both have been criticized for minimizing it — are at odds with that of his boss, who has taken a cautious tack for the Navajo Nation, Lizer said he stands with Nez but appreciates what Trump and Ducey are trying to do. “Arizona had one of the strongest economies in the Nation before this thing hit,” he noted. “Governor Ducey may have opened the state a little early, but he doesn’t want to completely lose the momentum the state had going. As a businessman, I certainly understand that tension.”

## SADDENED

FROM PAGE 1

Herrera now works with the Apache County Sheriff’s Office. He said he was surprised the “monster” took Lee’s life when he got word of his passing. “When I heard of his passing, I just remembered him and from our academy days,” he said. “I remember working with him briefly in Window Rock when he was there.” Lee worked at the Window Rock District for seven years. Peterson Zah had become the first tribal president. A year earlier, a riot had claimed the lives of two people when then-Navajo Tribal Chairman Peter MacDonald was placed on administrative leave by the Navajo Nation Council. As a rookie patrol officer, Lee had to ensure peace and order was maintained, despite MacDonald and his supporters accusing the Navajo Police of overreacting and causing the death of the two supporters. Seven years later, Lee transferred to the Chinle District where he was working before his life taken by the virus at the Banner University Medical Center in Phoenix. Herrera said Lee’s life being taken by the coronavirus saddened him. “We try and protect ourselves, of course, we put ourselves out there,” he said. “Somebody I went through that hell with to get through the academy, that’s what brought me down. This virus, is a whole different monster, that’s out there.” Navajo Nation Police Chief Phillip Francisco also remembered Lee, calling him a “very dedicated” officer. “Officer Lee was adamant about keeping family members safe during this pandemic,” Francisco said. He added Lee was recognized for his efforts and received an award for keeping the “Toys4Tots” program going. “He was dedicated. A great loss,” Francisco said. On Friday, dozens of law enforcement officers led a procession into Gallup escorting Lee’s hearse. The sound of sirens echoed throughout the area. Navajo and Gallup police officers stood at attention side by side. They saluted their fallen fellow warrior as his body was taken into Rollie Mortuary. One Navajo Police officer



NAVAJO TIMES | DONOVAN QUINTERO

**Navajo Nation Police Officer K. Tso-Tapahonso and other officers give their final salutes to fallen Navajo Nation Senior Police Officer Michael Lee, who died from COVID-19, on June 19.**

stood at attention as tears slowly rolled down her face. Afterward, the officers spoke amongst themselves, talking about the other officers who were also fighting for their lives against COVID-19. Mauricio Moreno, with Rollie Mortuary, confirmed Navajo Police officers have been taking turns standing watch over Lee’s coffin since Friday, their police units parked in the parking lot. Services for Lee will be held at the Potter’s House Christian Center in Chinle this morning (Thursday). Navajo Nation flags were ordered to half-staff on Wednesday, ending today. Due to the pandemic, services will be limited to immediate family only, but it may be live-streamed. “The family of Officer Lee is prioritizing the safety and well-being of everyone who wants to pay their respect and is emphasizing adhering to public health orders as the service becomes finalized,” a statement from the Navajo Police said. Lee’s family is accepting donations and set up a Wells Fargo memorial account called “Memorial Account for Officer Michael Lee.” The account number is 5341652773. Donations can also be made through Zelle transfer No. 5341652773.

## HELPING HANDS



COURTESY PHOTO

**Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch, far right, owner of R. Jumbo Construction, LLC, mobilized her friends and business contacts in Flagstaff to make weekly deliveries of COVID-19 relief supplies to her home chapter of Chinle. To date her crew has delivered food, soap, paper products, hand sanitizer, diapers, books, PPE and more to more than 300 families. Fifty-plus individuals, companies, churches, schools and groups have contributed. “We understand that we all have hardships, whether it is work, family or lack of being able to be ‘normal,’ but we much value their time and efforts during this COVID-19 relief effort,” Jumbo-Fitch wrote in an email to the Times. Left to right: Dtahelaw Daw, Helen Dineyazhe, Emerson Jumbo, Robert Jumbo, John Fitch, Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch.**

### Nonprofit delivers donations to Hopi, Navajo tribes

**STAMFORD, CONN.** – Americares, a leading nonprofit provider of donated medicine and medical supplies, has delivered 20 tons of personal protective equipment, infection-control supplies and hygiene products for Native American communities devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The health-focused relief and development organization has sent 99,000 masks, 6,300 containers of hand sanitizer and thousands of other critically needed supplies to the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation. The shipments support frontline health workers as well as staff working in shelters and food pantries in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico serving Native American populations. The Navajo Nation has been especially hard hit by the pandemic, and in May surpassed New York and New Jersey for the highest per-capita coronavirus infection rate in the country. “Native American communities have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19,” said Americares Vice President of Emergency Programs Kate Dischino. “Responding to immediate needs in the most affected communities is essential to help slow the spread of the virus.” Hopi Tribal Chairman Tim Nuvangyaoma said, “We are very grateful to Americares for reaching out to the Hopi Tribe to provide PPE, hygiene products and supplies for our first responders and village members. “I can imagine that our Hopi-Tewa community members find some comfort with this donation since these types of supplies are in high demand and not readily available,” he said.

The emergency shipments are made possible thanks in part to the generosity of The 11th Hour Project, the grant-making arm of The Schmidt Family Foundation.

In addition, many corporations donated products for the emergency shipments, including Clorox, Colgate-Palmolive, Henkel, Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble, Sanofi and Welmed.

### Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona donates \$10K to Navajo relief fund

**PHOENIX** – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona recently contributed \$10,000 to assist the Navajo Nation in its efforts to slow the spread of coronavirus. The funds will help the tribe purchase critical medical supplies and personal protective equipment, or PPE, that can help prevent the spread of the virus. The donation will benefit the Navajo Nation’s Dikos Ntsaaiigii-19 (COVID-19) relief efforts. “The Navajo Nation has some of the most immediate COVID-related health needs in Arizona,” said Pam Kehaly, president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona. “We stand alongside our strong tribal communities and their leaders in the fight against COVID-19.” “With the help of our partners,” said Seth Damon, speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. “the Navajo Nation has been able to consistently expand the scope of testing and donation distribution for our most remote members of our communities.” BCBSAZ has also donated 4,000 masks that will be distributed to shoppers at Bashas’ and Bashas’ Diné Market locations on the reservation, as well as masks to be used as needed by employees and critical

members of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, a nonprofit comprised of leaders from Arizona’s Itribal governments. Information: azblue.com/coronavirus.

### Global-PPE donates 10,000 masks

**RESTON, VA.** – Global-PPE, a health care startup that provides personal protective equipment, or PPE, supplies for underserved communities, is working with Native American communities and businesses to provide supplies to combat the spread of COVID-19. Global-PPE is helping Partnership with Native Americans to reach those most at risk during this pandemic. PUNA, a Native-led, Native-serving nonprofit that aids remote and impoverished reservations, will be distributing Global-PPE’s donation of 10,000 surgical masks to numerous tribal communities in the Southwest and Northern Plains regions. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to severe shortages of PPE equipment across the United States. Global-PPE was started to address this widespread shortage. “COVID-19 continues to disproportionately put the health and lives of people of color and people in underserved communities at grave risk,” said Sanjay Puri, CEO of Global-PPE. Native American communities remain at a higher risk of contracting the coronavirus due to multiple factors, including overcrowded housing on the reservations as well as high rates of preexisting health conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease and respiratory illness. Information: www.NativePartnership.org.

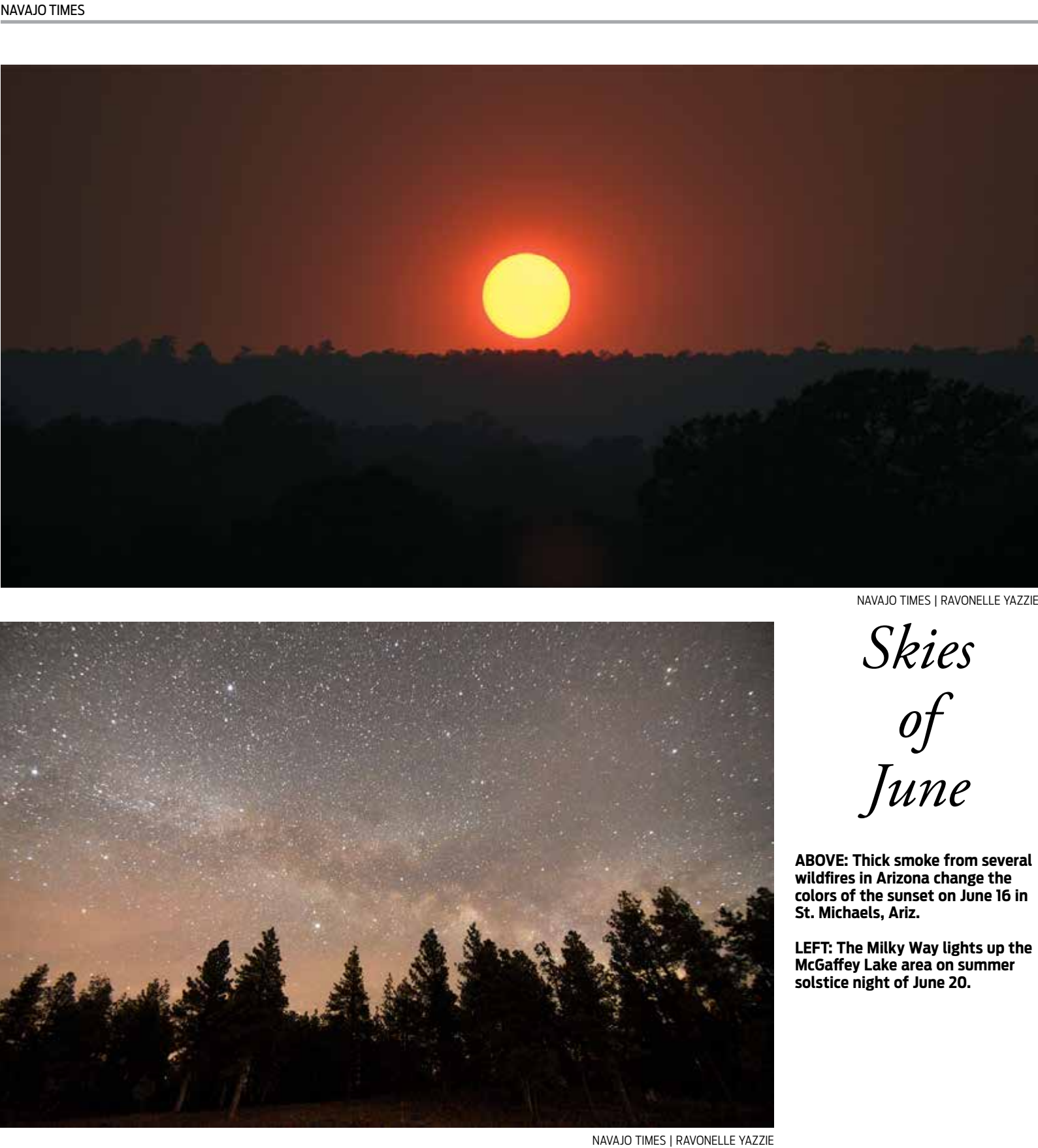
## Relief for coronavirus

**WINDOW ROCK** – The following are relief agencies in the fight to stop the spread of the coronavirus on the Navajo Nation. These are places to which people can send donations, contributions or other help. • Navajo Nation COVID-19 Fund at <http://www.ndoh.gov/donate.html>. You can also contact the Health Command Operations Center Donation Branch at 928-871-6206 or [general@nndoj.org](mailto:general@nndoj.org). The Navajo Department of Health’s COVID-19 website at <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19> and the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at 928-871-7014. • Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/NHFC19Relief> • Food Baskets for Elderly on Navajo Nation-Covid19, Chinle, Ariz. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-elderly-on-navajo-nation> • Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health at <https://secure.jhu.edu/form/jhsphamerin> • Bill Richardson Covid-19 Navajo Families Relief Fund at [www.nmchildren.org](http://www.nmchildren.org). • NB3 Foundation COVID 19 Response Fund at <https://www.classy.org/give/92644/#/donation/checkout>

### CORRECTION

In the June 11 story, “‘We need help’: Shiprock residents still ‘on standby’ for donations,” Sonlatsa Jim-Martin was referred to as being one of the supervisors of Michelle Peterson, the community services coordinator for Shiprock Chapter. The chapter vice president, Nevina Kinlahcheeny, is Peterson’s supervisor. The Times apologizes for the error. Attempts by reporter Rima Krisst to reach Jim-Martin, Division of Community Development Director Pearl Yellowman, and president’s office public information officer Jared Touchin for clarifications of the chain of command were not responded to and Peterson refused to disclose her supervisor’s name.





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## Skies of June

ABOVE: Thick smoke from several wildfires in Arizona change the colors of the sunset on June 16 in St. Michaels, Ariz.

LEFT: The Milky Way lights up the McGaffey Lake area on summer solstice night of June 20.

# ‘We must return to the teachings of Hozho’

## Hataalii Assoc. poised to receive \$1M for coronavirus response

**BY RIMA KRISST**  
NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** — The Diné Hataalii Association could receive \$1 million to support its efforts to fight COVID-19 and help heal the people if President Jonathan Nez signs off on the Council’s first CARES fund spending plan (No.132-20), which pays for immediate needs related to the Nation’s coronavirus response.

The legislation was passed by Council last Friday and allocated funds for special duty (hazard) pay for essential personnel (\$20 million), personal protective equipment (\$10 million), and facility safety (\$10million), plus the million for the association.

“The \$41 million in immediate funding will give our front-line responders and essential workers the compensation they badly deserve,” said Speaker Seth Damon, who sponsored the bill. “It also provides for personal protective equipment and safety assurance for thousands of our Navajo people that are looking to return to a safe workplace.”

Resolution CMY-44-20, which was passed on May 15, established “The Navajo Nation CARES Fund” through the CARES Act. Per the act, expenditures must be “necessary” to the Nation’s COVID-19 response and be incurred by Dec. 31.

While the act was partially line-item vetoed by Nez on May 30, the parts of the resolution that became law set up a process for the Council to approve allocations of CARES Act funds through spending plans.

Last week, Delegate Carl Slater, vice chair of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, introduced the amendment to provide \$1 million to the Diné Hataalii Association to fund its proposal to share and promote the teachings of Diné cultural wisdom and traditional healing practices to alleviate the mental and spiritual health impacts of the pandemic.

“I believe the way we can work best together and do good for our people is by harnessing support for these practices and perpetuation of this knowledge,” said Slater.

“The purpose of this propos-

al is to restore the health and wellness of the Diné people by employing ceremonial interventions and through development and dissemination of cultural education materials and information,” states the association’s proposal.

Slater believes there is a thirst for knowledge among the people and the Council has a responsibility to consider that.

**First health care system**

The association is a nonprofit that was established in 1970 and has over 200 registered members in five agencies. It is presided over by David Johns, president and Lorenzo Max, vice president.

Its core mission is to “protect, preserve and promote the Diné cultural wisdom, spiritual practices, and ceremonial knowledge for present and future generations of Diné.”

“A large percentage of Diné people still utilize traditional Diné healing interventions, ceremony, and cultural wisdom to maintain wellness,” the association said in their proposal. “This practice, in essence, is our first health care system.”

The association believes sharing the Diné philosophy of life can promote empowerment, self-care and self-healing.

“The Diné hataalii are called upon in times of fear, illness, uncertainty, danger and illness to offer wisdom, guidance and healing recommendations,” said John and Max in a statement. “We recognize this virus has come into our homes, our bodies, our minds and our spirits in the form of illness and fear.”

This, they say, is a matter of urgency and there is a great need to reduce the high levels of stress Diné are experiencing due to the pandemic.

The association’s \$1million budget includes \$160,000 for ceremonies and supporting the work of the hataaliis. The proposal states strict safety protocols will be followed that incorporate Navajo Nation Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Another \$376,000 will be allocated for regional agency funding, \$302,000 for staff salaries and consultants, and 60,000 for educational outreach,

which will include regular radio broadcasts, public service announcements, and written and audio-visual material.

Other expenses include equipment, supplies, travel and other services.

Michelle Kahn-John, secretary for the group, said it is important to support the hataaliis at this time who have been largely volunteering their services and have lost income because of the constraints of the pandemic.

“There are many people calling on the hataaliis for help but many of them don’t have the resources to have a ceremony or to pay the hataalii,” Kahn-John told HEHSC members. “We want to pay our hataaliis so they can continue to heal our nation.”

She indicated this is a pivotal time to be able to offer prevention, protection, and restoration of harmony.

The educational component is also key.

“We’d like to offer education of traditional teachings to help strengthen them, spiritually and mentally, and help them cope with grief, loss, fear and mental anguish,” said Kahn-John. “We need to develop and package this curriculum to help our people be strong and empower them.”

**Collective healing**

Slater’s amendment had unanimous support from HEHSC and most of the Council delegates.

The chief concern among some was that if one religious group is awarded funding the door should be opened to other faith-based groups, including the Diné Medicine Man’s Association and Azee’ Bee Nahagha, and others.

Lorenzo Max said the Navajo belief system is not a religion but a way of life, taught by the ancestors.

“In a lot of ways, we interpret the laws of nature that were put in place for everyone,” said Max.

He said it is important to raise awareness and reach as many people as possible about these things so they can protect themselves.

Delegate Otto Tso said that he would like to see assistance to

hataaliis be equitable and inclusive of all medicine men across the Nation. He indicated that not all of them are members of an association.

He asked how the association is collaborating with other groups like the Diné Medicine Men Association.

“How do they fit into the picture?” he asked.

Tso also said there is a Diné Hataalii Advisory Council under the Navajo Historic Preservation Department, which is officially recognized by the Council.

Slater said he was open to discussion about alternatives and a more inclusive plan, but that at this time it was the association that came forward with a specific proposal.

Slater pointed out that the question of how to incorporate traditional medicine was one of the main concerns of the Council when they initially started discussing public health orders and legislation to mitigate the spread of the virus.

“How do we retain and protect traditional knowledge and our elders and create a prosperous future based off of these precepts?” asked Slater.

As to concerns about whether the association is faith-based or religious, Slater referenced Fundamental Law.

“I want us to turn to what’s in our Code,” he said. “The Code doesn’t rely on any other traditions. This is the animating force of our Nation and our people.”

Slater also spoke to the long-term impacts of the trauma of the pandemic.

“Who knows what the psychological impact this will have on us, on our youth?” said Slater. “What sort of toll will this weigh in our collective psyche in years to come? Will it be a story of sadness, or a story of eventual triumph?”

Slater said leaders have an opportunity now to make sure that when they tell the story in the future, they can say they supported the traditional forms of knowledge, leadership, and a plan.

“Let’s honor our obligations,” said Slater.

On Tuesday, No. 132-20 was on its way to the president’s desk for his signature or veto.

## ► HALF

FROM PAGE 1

DV victims to other shelters, including the nonprofit Tohdenasshai Shelter Home in Kayenta and Amá dóó Alchíní Bighan in Chinle, both of which are still waiting for their funding.

Trudy Tsosie at Northern T.R.E.E. house, which was started by the tribe in 2017 after the non-profit Shiprock Home for Women and Children went under, said she had been told not to answer questions from the press and referred this reporter to her supervisor, Department of Family Services Director Regina Yazzie. There was no answer on Yazzie’s office line and no voicemail.

The shelter directors say that if the tribally run shelters are going to compete with them for federal funds, they should have to fill out an application just like the nonprofits do, and the language in the act seems to bear that out.

“Indian tribes have the option to authorize a tribal organization or a nonprofit private organization to submit an application to administer FVPSA funds,” reads a summary of the act by Congressional Research Services.

“I haven’t seen any data from either Gentle Ironhawk or the T.R.E.E. house,” said Ellison.

Carmelia Blackwater of Tohdenasshai added that the federal grants are not supposed to be used to supplant tribal funds, which seems to be what’s going on with the tribal shelters and some of the administrative costs.

“That money should be going directly to the nonprofits,” she said, adding, “Who is the watchdog over these tribal departments?”

The grant to tribes specifies that at least 70 percent of the funding has to go to direct services such as food and shelter, but up to an additional 25 percent must be used for indirect services such as legal advocacy — which is something the shelters do informally, accompanying their clients to court dates.

“In the Navajo Nation criminal justice system, they don’t have victim advocates,” explained Blackwater. “We as non-profits fill that role.”

So the nonprofits could legitimately be getting up to 95 percent of the grant money, while they’re actually getting about 53 percent.

But the fact is, the shelter directors agreed, they’d be happy with the 53 percent if they could just get it on time or even a few months late, like usual. As it is they’ve had no money from the tribe since last fiscal year. Their staffs have been volunteering,

and their contracts with the tribe, which were supposed to start on Nov. 1 and were later revised to June 1, still haven’t shown up as the shelters struggle to adapt to newly mandated changes in their insurance coverage.

At Monday’s meeting of the Council’s Health, Education and Human Services Committee, the Navajo Nation controller, Risk Management and DSS all said they couldn’t waive the contract requirements, and the shelters had been allowed to slide on insufficient contracts for too long.

Ellison said the requirements should have been addressed by the request for proposals back in August — but that was two Family Services directors ago.

“I’ve lost faith in government,” declared Ellison, a former candidate for Navajo Nation president.

“I agree ... the whole process is a little bit skewed,” offered Dale.

Regina Yazzie, the current director of Family Services, said the shelters do deserve to be reimbursed for the expenses.

**‘That money should be going directly to the nonprofits. Who is the watchdog over these tribal departments?’**

**Carmelia Blackwater**

es they’ve incurred since last November, but the contracts can’t be made retroactive and DSS doesn’t have the funds for that.

She suggested the Council appropriate \$577,755 — the cost of the reimbursement for all the shelters — from the Undesignated, Unreserved Fund.

While this would temporarily solve their problem, the shelter directors say all they want is the pass-through funding they have coming, and they resent having to be a burden on the tribe through no fault of their own.

“I think it’s an attempt to change the narrative,” opined Ellison after the meeting. “DSS needs to fix their system instead of coming in like a savior using money that’s not specifically allocated for us.”

Opal Cole, director of the Family Crisis Center in Farmington, said she’s afraid that with all the emphasis on money and legal technicalities, the plight of domestic violence survivors is being lost.

“We’re going to keep our doors open, whether we have money or not, whether our clients have COVID or not,” she stated. “What they seem to be missing is this is not about us and our salaries. People’s lives are hanging in the balance. If I shut my doors, somebody may die.”

the Dikos Ntsaaigii-19 Relief Fund Work Group it would create. This group would be comprised of four members from the three branches of Navajo Nation government, and include representatives from Navajo chapters.

The group would be tasked with creating spending plans. But this was taken out of the legislation.

Although failing to override Nez’s vetoes of its own bill, Council approved legislation 0132-20, sponsored by Speaker Seth Damon. The legislation authorized three immediate expenditures totaling \$41 million of the CARES Act funding.

The legislation contains \$21 million in hazard pay to be issued through the controller’s office for front-line responders and essential personnel; and \$10 million for personal protective equipment through the Navajo Nation Department of Health. The PPE includes cleaning and disinfecting supplies, face shields, face coverings, disposable gloves and more.

And \$10 million was approved for the Facilities Maintenance Department to begin disinfecting and cleaning public offices to make them safe for returning workers and the public.

Also, U.S. District Court Judge Amit Mehta ordered the final distribution of the remaining \$679 million in federal CARES Act funding to tribes, including the Navajo Nation.

Both Nez and Damon have said separately they are seeking a deadline extension. The deadline to spend these dollars is Dec. 31.

Nez has 10 days to approve or veto both resolutions.

## ► CHANGES

FROM PAGE 1

come back and run for Council and be a legislator.”

Last week, it looked like Council and the president’s office had come to an agreement to possibly merge the two Navajo Nation CARES fund plans. They had a work session but, in the end, Council voted down their override legislation for its own spending plan, Resolution CMY-44-20, just before they approved Nez’s plan, 0116-19.

“It seems like we got to this point in over a month,” said Resource and Development Committee member Mark Freeland. “I’m glad we are at this point to move forward considering how many lives we’ve lost.”

“We’re being watched,” he said. “We’ve been criticized, but we are at this point where we are able to move forward and get some relief for our people.”

One of the amendments set aside payroll expenses of \$25 million for exempt and non-exempt employees with priorities given to first responders and Division of Public Safety employees, with \$750,000 for the Ramah Navajo Department of Public Safety.

Adding onto this amendment, \$1 million would be distributed in equal amounts to San Juan, McKinley, and Sandoval counties for the county volunteer fire departments to use for personal protective equipment, cleaning, and disinfecting supplies.

When Nez brought attention to 0116-20, he took pride in



# ‘What being a Diné is all about’

Helpers brave long hours, rough roads to reach isolated families

BY KRISTA ALLEN  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

**CH’ÁYAHII, ARIZ.** – A rooster uttered a defiant crow that echoed far through the canyon as Lorenzo Tyler drove his family across a small stream of water running over a stony bed in Navajo Creek.

Tyler was told by people who know the area well: “The trip is going to take a couple of hours. The roads are going to be rough, but as long as you have a four-wheel drive, you’re OK.”

They weren’t joking. “And that’s kind of what we went on,” said Tyler, a U.S. Marine veteran, who along with his family — wife Laverne Tsosie, a U.S. Army veteran, and his stepdaughter Shyla — delivered pre-filled propane bottles and cleaning products and boxes filled with food to the only two households in Navajo Canyon, more than 18 bumpy miles across the Rainbow Plateau.

There are several abandoned homes, most of them vacated because owners left for bigger communities.

Winding through the rural land with fields of atsád???? and dibéd????, they curved around a small man-made reservoir into an area of Russian olive and cottonwood trees in Ch’áayahii – the longest side canyon on Lake Powell that is not a river arm.

The long drive beckons the spirit of adventure and connects to Diné history and traditional roots.

“We didn’t know where we were going,” Tyler said, adding that this was his and his family’s first trip down the canyon to visit the two households. “Of course, we missed a couple of turnoffs.

“We’re in contact with the people down there and there’s a person who we’re talking to and who we communicated with. We learned what their needs are and whatnot.”

Driving along the creek, Tyler and his family came across siblings Rockie and Sarah Tsinnijinnie, both of whom were on their way to K’ái’bii’tó for medicine in a Ram truck.

Tyler told the siblings that he and his family had brought boxes filled with food such as macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, cereal, and cooking oil; including pet food and other household essentials.

Rockie and Sarah accepted the offerings and turned around and led the family back to their home near a natural spring that irrigates their cornfield and apricot and peach orchards.

A white Leghorn rooster strutted through the area, letting everyone know it is in charge, at the Tsinnijinnie homestead.

“We will take all of these things inside the house,” Sarah said in Navajo.

Sarah is well aware of the coronavirus and the concept of social distancing. She didn’t let the visitors inside their home.

## Isolated oasis

The world grows quiet here. There is a natural swimming pool, countless places to hike and run, and there’s water everywhere in Ch’áayahii, which was named after a Báýóódzin man who once lived in the canyon when his people migrated from Tónaneesdizí to Blanding, Utah.

But the families here are immune to the wonder as this area



From left to right, Lorenzo Tyler, Laverne Tsosie, Shyla Shortman, Sarah Tsinnijinnie, and Rockie Tsinnijinnie, pose outside the Tsinnijinnie homestead in Navajo Canyon, Ariz., on June 18. Tyler and his family delivered boxes filled with food and supplies to the two households in the canyon.

of the Navajo Nation is more than its diverse landscapes – it’s also history.

Navajo Canyon carries stories of Diné who escaped the Long Walk and survived. For the Tsinnijinnies and the John Yazzie Lowe family in Jayí Canyon nearby, this connection is what makes this place home: a sense of belonging to the canyon.

“The only thing we really need is a well-maintained road or pavement,” Sarah said.

While roads are critical to health, roads also bring in outsiders and Tooh Dine’é into their homes, disturbing the isolation and trampling their lives in the canyon.

“We use solar energy, but the photovoltaic system broke down,” Sarah said.

Tyler said he completely misjudged the roads. He thought the roads were maintained and that it would be smooth trip.

“What if there’s an emergency situation? What if these worst-case scenarios come up? Those were the things (I and my family) were talking about and discussing as we drove down there,” Tyler said. “There’s water going through (the canyon) but the thing that (the families) brought up the most was the road, which seems like they got accustomed to – it’s part of their daily life.”

Tyler said he also noticed that the families don’t have emergency water storage in case the natural springs ever run dry.

While COVID cases rise in at least seven states with relaxed facemask policies, the families here know the virus is a more serious illness than the seasonal flu. And they know there isn’t a vaccine yet.

“They are aware of it and at the same time, maybe they want the outside world to kind of stay away,” Tyler said. “They’re not wanting to encounter people a majority of the time. That’s probably because they want to be left alone. It’s probably a culture they got used to.”



Naatsis’áán, a laccolith, is seen in the Rainbow Plateau just before heading down Ch’áayahii, more than 18 miles from any paved road in northwestern and Utah Navajo on June 18.

## Ajooba’ Hasin

While there has been great suffering, loss and fear brought about by the pandemic in the Navajo Nation, there’s been an outpouring of support from simple people sharing acts of kindness.

Tyler and his family, including his in-laws, are just a handful of those people who are helping others and sharing positivity with every person they encounter.

“It’s part of our culture, but at the same time that’s been forgotten,” Tyler explained. “That goes back to our households that we were brought up with a long time ago. And that’s basically k’é, our clanship, our clan system and everything else.

“We were basically told, growing up, to help each other out not only in the household but also neighborly,” he said. “I

always try to teach it and tell others, ‘We can make a difference.’

“There’s still good people out

there and there’s hope: sihasin,” he said.

Tyler said the propane, pet food, and boxes filled with food and supplies are from the Families to Families Ajooba’ Hasin, a COVID-19 relief group organized by the family of the late Frank and Mary Martin from Bodaway-Gap, Arizona.

The relief group initially started right around early March, when the coronavirus hit with a fever pitch as crowds descended on supermarkets for cleaning supplies and toilet paper to prepare for the pandemic.

When Alicia Martin, Laverne’s sister, saw the chaos, she knew she had to do something, so she started a Facebook page and a GoFundMe fund-raising page for her community of Bodaway-Gap’s coronavirus response.

“We really needed to do something,” said Martin, a chef by trade, who was working for the new Rim View Terrace restaurant in Page, Arizona, at the time. She used most of her personal savings to buy food and household essentials for her own family who couldn’t go to the supermarket because they had contracted the virus.

“My family in Phoenix, they started wanting to collect things on their own,” Martin said. “After that, I called everyone up and I said, ‘Hey, let’s get on the same page here. We are more powerful together. Let’s combine.’”

That’s when Ajooba’ Hasin started and the group started a new GoFundMe fundraiser, which raised just under \$14,000, some of which was used to buy 100 pre-filled propane tanks, school supplies for students, and additional food.

“We don’t want to do a drive-thru or a first come, first serve because that’s not really fair,” she said. “During this time, you can’t say no to people. As soon as you hear that someone needs help over here, we just go over there and help them. But we have to remind people to keep in mind that we are small.”

Ajooba’ Hasin has been working with other relief groups like Pete Sands’ Utah Navajo COVID-19 Relief Group, Curtis Frazier Jr.’s Navajo Strong, and Murphy Zoel Zohnnie’s Water Warriors to reach out to more families across Western and Utah Navajo.

The experience thus far, Martin said, has been amazing and this is what being a Diné is all about.

“That’s the whole reason for the clan system,” she said. “You meet someone that’s very new, that’s not blood-related, but they are your cheii or your brother or your dad and you treat them like it.

“That is Navajo – to care and love for one another like you do your parents and your own siblings,” she said.

“How lucky we are to be in a remote (part of the U.S.),” she said. “I want to start preserving that and start teaching my kids that. We’ve got to try to preserve what we can and now we have this pandemic.

“We’re losing the elderly at a fast rate,” Martin said. “We’re limited on time. That shrunk drastically with this pandemic, which sped up the loss of our elderly. This (relief group) isn’t just helping through the pandemic, it’s also about preserving our culture, bringing awareness to a lot of the racism.”



Siblings Rockie and Sarah Tsinnijinnie make their way home while Lorenzo Tyler and his family follow along across a barren area of land in Navajo Canyon on June 18.



Lorenzo Tyler moves boxes of food and supplies, all of which were sanitized, to the tailgate for distribution outside the home of John Yazzie Lowe in Jayí Canyon, near the Tsinnijinnie homestead in Navajo Canyon, on June 18.





A Black Lives Matter-themed mural, about 200 feet in length, is drawn on Coal Avenue in Gallup on Friday evening.

NAVAJO TIMES | DONOVAN QUINTERO

## Laying down a message

### Protest leads to mural on Coal Ave.

BY DONOVAN QUINTERO  
NAVAJO TIMES

**G**ALLUP — The fresh paint between the 200 and 300 blocks of Coal Avenue is all but faded away. But the message it left behind, organizers hope, embeds itself into every mind in Gallup — especially the Gallup Police Department’s — and turns into change.

Since the killing of George Floyd a month ago in Minneapolis, Black Lives Matter protests and rallies across the country usually ended when police use batons and tear gas on protesters. But the message is being heard.



A mural dedicated to the Black Lives Matter movement is drawn on Coal Avenue in Gallup on Friday night.

RIGHT: A Black Lives Matter rally held on Coal Avenue on Friday spotlighted work on a mural to highlight racism in Gallup. The mural is about 200 feet in length and reads “Disarm Racism.”



A participant paints in more yellow into a mural dedicated to the Black Lives Matter movement on Friday in Gallup.

NAVAJO TIMES | DONOVAN QUINTERO

The protests have inspired cities, large and small, to prohibit certain uses of force, like chokeholds, and defunding and sometimes disbanding entire police departments.

Last month’s rally and march in Gallup inspired the drawing of a mural on Coal Avenue in downtown Gallup.

Artist Jerry Brown, who is Tááb??hí, born for B??h Bitoo’nii, whose paternal grandfathers are Ásh??hí, and maternal grandfathers are Tsi’naajinii, from Mariano Lake, New Mexico, designed the 200-foot mural that covered about half the length of the street.

“We’re churning the forces in Gallup, New Mexico, and we decided to write the words ‘Disarm Racism’

and put a hummingbird in the middle,” Brown said on Friday evening.

Brown said he chose the hummingbird because it represents diversity, as well as the Navajo belief that it is a messenger between the living and the afterlife, and good luck.

“We need to start healing, so that’s why I picked the hummingbird,” he said.

One of the organizers, attorney Barry Klopher, said the street is scheduled to be torn out and replaced with a new street in two weeks, saying the message to the city’s police should have been heard by then.

Paint and supplies were donated by private individuals.



NAVAJO TIMES | DONOVAN QUINTERO



# Navajo Times will be online only for 2 issues

BY TOMMY ARVISO JR.  
NAVAJO TIMES

Last Friday the Navajo Times announced to the general public that it would be closing its doors for two weeks and that there would no print editions published on June 25 and July 2. Instead, the Navajo Times would publish an online edition only on those two dates. The reason we made this decision was to protect our Navajo Times staff, customers and readers from any contact or complications of the coronavirus pandemic. On June 18, we received word that two of our workers had tested positive for the coronavirus and so we immediately informed our staff, vacated the building and locked our front doors. We basically went into a 14-day quarantine as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Our staff and carriers also went to local hospitals and clinics to be tested on that same day and the following day. Since then, we have received notice that a good majority of our employees and carriers have tested negative and we should be soon hearing of the rest of the results in the next

## FROM THE PUBLISHER



Tommy Arviso Jr.

two days. No one has yet tested positive and that's real good news. The two workers who originally tested positive were seen and treated at a local hospital and are both now at home, resting and on the road to recovery. Again, that is good news to hear and know. On Saturday, June 18, we had our whole office thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by a local professional cleaning company. They did a great job and we are happy and confident in having our office back in safe condition. Since early March when the coronavirus pandemic surfaced here on the Navajo Nation, our employees and carriers have done a great job of practicing safety at home and at work. We will continue that responsible behavior until there is no more threat from

the coronavirus. This coronavirus is a dangerous enemy. You cannot see this disease and you never know where or when it will strike and whom it will strike. The coronavirus does not discriminate and it will bring harm to all those who do not protect themselves at all times. Once the coronavirus does strike, it moves and spreads quickly without warning and makes humans sick in a variety of ways. Here at the Navajo Times, we were quite fortunate over the last few months that we did not have a serious incident or accident with the coronavirus, in-house and at home. However, we are human just like you and the coronavirus struck us last week. Since then we have done all that we can to regroup, get tested, have our office cleaned, and plan for the immediate future. So, for now, we will publish only an online edition of the Navajo Times for the next two issues. We will return to full operation, including printing our newspaper, on Monday, July 6. Our front doors will be open to the general public on that day and we will start delivering our printed newspapers to all of our newsstands and sales outlets

on Thursday, July 9. Since I've assumed leadership of the Navajo Times 32 years ago, we have never missed a publication date and this is the first time that we will not have a print issue published. We have definitely had our share of problems and delays in getting our newspaper printed and delivered in the past, but those situations were based on technical, mechanical or printing press problems. Those kinds of problems we were able to eventually solve or work around and we still delivered a printed newspaper. This time around, we have had to change our entire publishing routine and structure due to the effects of a dangerous public disease that we cannot see, hear, smell, taste or feel. It's a situation that we have no control over, and neither does anyone else. What we can do and what we do have control over, is to protect our loved ones and ourselves by practicing safety at all times. We don't know if we will get hit by the coronavirus again and neither do you. The coronavirus is not going to go away for a long time yet and so it remains a constant legitimate threat to all of society and mankind. That is something we do know.

There are many businesses, schools and governments that have been hit hard by the coronavirus and we all have suffered the consequences. Many businesses, including the media and the newspaper publishing industry, have closed their operations, laid off employees, and have cut back on their sales and services. We are truly blessed that we have been able to continue to operate our company and publish a newspaper for our Navajo people during this stressful time. I hope that you understand our situation here at the Navajo Times. We have been open and transparent in what has occurred with the coronavirus and how we have dealt with it, and continue to deal with it. It is our intent to return to publishing a quality, full-color print edition of the award-winning Navajo Times in two weeks. Thank you to all of our readers, advertisers, customers, and to our families and friends for your support and cooperation. We pray that the Almighty Creator keeps us safe and healthy today and every day. Let's all continue to protect, support and look out for one another.

## 50 YEARS AGO

# Coal mine contract becomes political

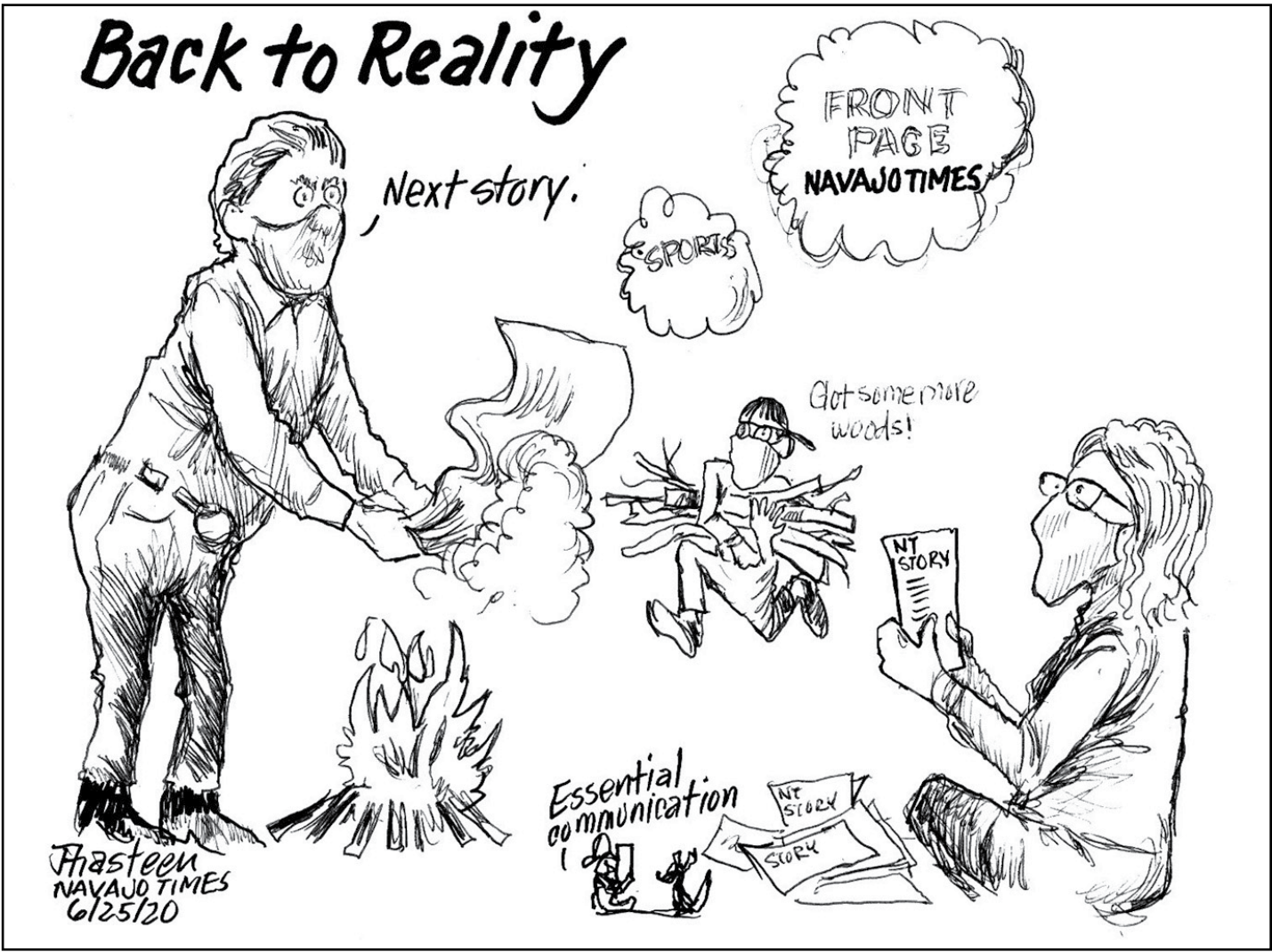
BY BILL DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The Navajo Tribe received some really good news 50 years ago this week from the Peabody Coal Company. It was planning to start mining coal in the Black Mesa area near Kayenta after signing a contract with several utility companies that would provide Peabody \$770 million, one of the biggest coal deals ever signed for Southwest coal. It was good news for the tribe in two ways: it would get royalties for every ton of coal that was mined; and company officials said it would create 339 jobs, the great majority of which would go to Navajos. According to the front-page article in that week's Navajo Times, Peabody officials were really hyped about the Black Mesa site because of the low ash content of the coal buried there. Evidently, that kind of coal was highly sought by utility companies. Navajo Tribal Chairman Raymond Nakai was also very happy with the news, saying the tribe would receive several hundred thousand dollars a year in royalty payments. It also didn't hurt that the announcement came during his campaign for re-election. So who wasn't happy? For one, Nakai's main challenger for the chairman position. Peter MacDonald pointed out that the tribe was getting only 20 cents a ton royalty, far less than other landowners where coal was being mined. For the next several years, MacDonald would point out that the tribe was getting a "can of Coke" for every ton that was mined. He made it a priority once he was elected to try to get Peabody to renegotiate the contract but Peabody refused, pointing out that not only did the tribe sign the contract but so did the Secretary of the Interior as trustee for the tribe. Just when it appeared that the tribe would be stuck with the can of Coke per ton for the next two decades, tribal attorneys managed to acquire some internal documents from inside the Interior Department during the time the lease was under negotiation. The documents included a memo from a department attorney, which questioned the 20 cents a ton royalty rate, pointing out that this was way below the market value of the coal. The tribal attorneys then filed a lawsuit against the Interior Department claiming that the federal agency failed its fiduciary duties as trustee. In the end, MacDonald got every-

thing he wanted — a big bonus payment and a new rate of 12-and-a-half percent of he value of the coal after it was mined. Instead of making tens of thousands of dollars a year from the contract, the tribe would be making millions. Speaking of MacDonald, Times editor Dick Hardwick stirred up a hornet's nest when he relayed in that week's editorial a rumor he had heard about MacDonald and his job as executive director of the Office of Navajo Economic Opportunity. According to Hardwick, MacDonald, in his last months as ONEO director before stepping down to run against Nakai, was using agency community workers to encourage people to support his candidacy. The rumor was that they were doing this as they did their jobs, which was a big no-no. Believing these rumors to be true, Council delegates supporting Nakai made several efforts in early 1970 to get MacDonald to step down. MacDonald refused, staying in his job until late May. Although this was a rumor that had been spreading for months, putting it down in writing caused an immediate reaction from ONEO officials. The day after the editorial ran, Verne Curtis, head of ONEO's community service program, issued a long statement saying the rumor was "completely false," adding that he had been in contact with all the agency directors for the program and all said the same thing. "If the editor has any proof that our community service workers had been engaged in tribal politics during work hours, he should produce the proof and we will take the appropriate action," he said. Of course, Hardwick had no proof. That is why he called it a rumor in his editorial. To put this in a little more perspective, there also had been reports that tribal employees who supported Nakai were seen dropping off campaign literature on behalf of Nakai during working hours. And finally, sticking with the election, one of the candidates running for tribal chairman was promoting the idea of the Navajo Times becoming a national newspaper. "It would be nice if the Times was sold in larger cities and became a national newspaper," said Franklin Eriacho. When asked about that, Hardwick said the Times was sort of a national newspaper already, having subscribers in every state. The paper was also sold on newsstands in Dallas, Phoenix and Albuquerque.



JACK AHASTEEN  
EDITORIAL CARTOONIST



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Let's do side-straddle hops – together

When will the Navajo Nation's "in-house" fighting stop? When? We all on the Navajo Nation need to get out and exercise together. Let us all stand and do five side-straddle hops right now — all together. Several will say "I can't" and several will participate. Take this same picture when it comes to funds currently available and new funds coming in from the outside to the Navajo Nation government for the COVID-19 partial relief. This written editorial centers on the \$600 million from the U.S. government, which requires a template for the Navajo Nation to accept the COVID-19 funds, which will impact the local and central Navajo governmental services impacting direct services to our Navajo people. My personal experiences with my government is that when we hear of

or see money we all do not participate in doing the five side-straddle hops together. Instead we, as individuals or groups, begin to "wonder" and have an agenda of our own. Why? Our leaders, as well as us the general public, push the idea of working together. Yet we do the opposite. So what happens? Do you have an answer? Well, let's do five more side-straddle hops — all stand please and do five side-straddle hops. By now we lost a few more individuals in doing the five additional side-straddle hops. Right! Well, the longer there are unjustified or justified delays in working together and erasing the "no more fighting in-house" in our Navajo Nation government there will be no solidarity in our submittal(s) of any plan(s). This template to make use of the \$600 million is required to come from the Navajo Nation in order to make use of the actual funds when received. This actual project plan by the Navajo

Nation, which is not in place yet, may require us to do additional side-straddle hops in the future. Not to mention other thousands of dollars that has already been received by our Navajo Nation government — I wonder where those funds are going or have gone. My understanding is that the monetary donations are just sitting and not being used while our Navajo population is affected. In conclusion, no more in-house fighting and expedite a compromised Navajo Nation template with a deadline of July 3 or sooner for a qualified future \$600 million (COVID-19) use plan with copies to the general public. There is a deadline of December for making use of all the funds. Stay as a unified Navajo Nation government from start to end during the allocation and the use of \$600 million.

SEE LETTERS CONT'D | A7

# Navajo Times



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# 3 ‘sisters’ succeed in removal of racist monuments

BY PAULY DENETCLAW  
NAVAJO TIMES

**SANTA FE** — The founders of the Three Sisters Collective, Christina Castro, Autumn Gomez and Autumn Billie, met with the mayor of Santa Fe and asked him a simple question, “What side of history do you want to be on right now?”

One two-hour conversation as well as hundreds of years of Pueblo resistance toppled racist monuments celebrating colonizers like Don Diego de Vargas, Kit Carson and “heroes who have fallen in the various battles with savage Indians in the territory of New Mexico.”

One by one the city of Santa Fe has begun to remove three monuments in a growing national movement to remove statues celebrating violent colonizers who committed acts of genocide and slavery.

“He took our advice, our matriarchal wisdom and Pueblo women wisdom and within an hour he was on, giving a live speech,” Castro said of Santa Fe mayor Alan Webber.

Last Thursday, the collective organized a rally to celebrate the removal of these statues and to peaceably assemble to continue to fight for change.

“We didn’t know by this morning that the de Vargas Statue would be gone,” Castro, who is Jemez, Taos Pueblo and Chicana, said.

The top of the Soldiers’ Monument obelisk in Santa Fe Plaza, that used the racist slur of “savage” to describe Indigenous people, has been removed. The city is still trying to figure out how to take the rest down.

On Sunday night the monument was painted with the words “racist” and “Tewa Land.”

The next monument to be removed will be the Kit Carson obelisk that is currently enclosed by plywood.

While all of these monuments being removed are a win, Castro couldn’t help but notice that none of the 19 Pueblo governors were in attendance at the rally.

“That says a lot about how much work we have to do as Pueblo women,” Castro said.

It was tough to see that her community’s own leadership didn’t show up. However, she was touched that a group of Indigenous men came together to hold that space for them and sang songs.

“I really shout out those young men that held that space for us today because our own tribal leadership didn’t do that for us,” Castro said.

Autumn Gomez grew up in Santa Fe and saw these monuments every day.

“As a Pueblo person who has lived in this community for my entire life, I’ve had to live with all these statues,” Autumn Gomez, who is Taos Pueblo and Comanche, said.

“My middle school was named De Vargas Middle School and our mascot



Jennifer helps carry a banner that reads “Abolish the Entrada!” on the Santa Fe plaza where people gathered to demand the removal of the obelisk celebrating violence against “savage Indians.”



Sierra holds up a banner that reads “Abolish the Entrada!” on the Santa Fe plaza where people gathered to demand the removal of the obelisk celebrating violence against “savage Indians.”

## FROM REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK



Pauly Denetclaw

was the conquerors,” she said. “That could have permeated my psychological being but my parents did everything they could to teach me our true history.”

Gomez recognizes that she’s part of generations of Indigenous people who have pushed for change and the liberation of Native people.

“I can only credit my ancestors and elders who really propelled me to do this work,” Gomez said.

She is happy to carry on that legacy.

The rally was a peaceful gathering but organizers were on edge because of what happened a few days prior on June 15 in Albuquerque. A protester was shot by Stephen Ray Baca, a member of the New Mexico Civil Guard, a self-proclaimed militia, during a demonstration to remove a Juan de Onate statue.

“We’re here to make sure that everybody is safe,” Hope Alvarado, an organizer with the Red Nation, said. “People get to their car safe and that they’re protected from white supremacists and militias who have been known to frequent protests down in Santa Fe. We know that there is a heavy presence.”

Hope Alvarado and Jennifer Marley scanned the crowd ensuring the members of the Three Sisters Collective were protected and safe.

“We’re here to protect our people,”



A crowd gathers at a peaceful protest on June 18 in Santa Fe to demand the removal of the obelisk celebrating violence against “savage Indians” which is located at the center of the Santa Fe plaza.

Alvarado said. “To make sure people, especially Tewa People, are able to share their experiences and voice their concerns but also tear down this racist monument that names us as ‘savages.’”

In 2017, Jennifer Marley from San Ildefonso Pueblo was one of seven arrested for protesting the Entrada, which was a yearly re-enactment of

Spanish conquest of Pueblo people.

“I know how violent things can get in Santa Fe,” Marley said. “I’ve experienced it firsthand and the role I wanted to play was to keep people safe.”

The protest of the Entrada was peaceful but protesters were still met with violence.

“Today for something like this, ex-

tremely peaceful, not even any chanting, just lots of wise words, songs and prayers, and we still had a presence of white supremacists,” Marley said. “We still had a heavy police presence.”

The rally ended peacefully with the collective taking photos, fists raised high, in front of a monument that will soon be removed.

## LETTERS CONT'D

FROM PAGE 6

We, the Navajo citizens, wait for all of us to do the five side-straddle hops together at one time once a plan emerges and the plan begins to work. We wait for a qualified plan and as we wait many more of our Navajos die. Have you seen the new numbers?

A big shout out to all the first responders who sacrifice their lives each day going to work to take care of us.

All of us from every corner of the Navajo Nation need to continue to minimize the spread of the virus — stay home, wear a mask and wear gloves. By doing so — lives lost will be less or none at all.

Harold Wauneka  
Shush Bi'toh (Blue Canyon)/Tsehootsooi, Ariz.

### Support Navajo-led relief groups

I read Percy Deal’s piece “Stop the Relief Infighting” in the June 11 edition of the Navajo Times. It saddens me to see such division among our leaders. I believe we need to recognize the value of Navajo-led relief groups.

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Navajo Nation government struggled to figure out how to respond to the challenges of dwindling supplies and applying the idea of social distancing among the people. They struggled to figure out the rules, the expertise, decision makers, and to locate funding to get resources out to our 110 communities.

Clearly, our government is not built for rapid responsiveness to emergency situations.

Instead, it took the quick action and response of concerned Navajo citizens to create a GoFundMe page. Our former attorney general, Ethel Branch, and her team from local Navajo communities stepped up as the first relief funded organization to supply resources to our most needy and vulnerable population — our elders, our immune-compromised, and our single parent homes.

They kicked off their first fundraising goal of a few thousand dollars and it has led into the millions with national and international supporters.

I believe the grassroots movement must be recognized as an asset for the Navajo Nation. Grassroots movements such as the Navajo and Hopi Families

COVID-19 Relief Fund are powerful weapons to battle COVID-19 to get immediate relief to our Navajo people.

The Navajo and Hopi Families Relief Group helped save so many lives. They prevented families from driving into town in the early stages of the pandemic to prevent them from getting exposed to COVID-19.

Their quick thinking to fundraise online helped to alleviate the high cost of buying needed supplies, clean water, and hard-to-acquire cleaning supplies for Navajo families. They recognized that COVID-19 knows no boundaries and unified with our Hopi brothers and sisters.

Their swift and decisive action promotes transparency and triggered other movements like the Navajo Seamstresses United.

We should praise the actions of our Navajo people for stepping up and organizing. One thing we all need to recognize is we still need more relief in our communities. Supplies are used. Food is eaten. Money is spent. It is clear that we need all types of support from all types of organizations.

This will be a long battle against COVID-19. We need to fight this together.

Our Navajo Nation government does not have a monopoly on helping people. No one body owns the rights or the name to Navajo Nation government. We, as the people, are the Navajo Nation government. We are a tribal democracy built on the idea of local community organizing and helping ourselves.

The Navajo government must praise the actions of our people with the energy and courage to act. We need our leaders to unite and to unite grass-roots action.

We cannot win as a people when legal minds are wasted on suing our own citizens. Our legal agents must be focused on fighting the big battles that will transform our nation.

As a nation, we must recognize the strengths and limits of our government. We must allow citizens to organize Navajo driven relief groups when needs are not being met. Do not punish Ethel Branch and her team for their fearless and courageous action.

Dear Navajo leaders, unite us, don’t fight us.

Wendy S. Greyeyes, Ph.D.  
Kayenta, Ariz.

### Navajo lives matter

Recent Navajo Times reports that the governing body of the tribe is in chaos in figuring out how to spend the \$600 million for the coronavirus pandemic disaster. There is a deadline and the money will be lost if it is not met.

Some of our communities are in need of water. Water is essential to fight this virus. Some areas on our reservation are without water. How do they protect themselves against this killer?

Already thousands have died and many more will die. Don’t Navajo lives matter to our own people?

There are some communities such as the Kinlichee-St. Michaels borderline that have no water and have been waiting for 40 years. The Indian Health Service comes around every few years and promises them they will get water soon. Then they make excuses as to why they can’t get it done.

About a year ago they started working on the waterlines and then stopped because there are two houses in the way of the waterlines. So I guess it’s another 40 years to wait for them to figure out how to go around those two houses.

This is ridiculous. I thought they hired experts to fix these water problems. Where are they? We have no advocates to assist us. Where are our councilmen and chapter officials?

Now we have a life threatening situation and we have no defense, no weapons to fight this killer monster.

As long as we are silent, like we have been, nothing will get done. We need to speak out and begin to protest at the tribal chambers and the Indian Health Service to get answers.

Navajo lives matter. Isn’t that the teachings of the Holy People? Are we following our beliefs?

Sharon Manuelito  
Window Rock, Ariz.

### Remove names of those who murdered

I’m a former student of Albuquerque Public Schools. I have lived off and on in the Albuquerque area throughout my 69 years. I have worked for Albuquerque Public Schools and Santa Fe Public Schools and been on the parent advisory board in the past to advocate for Native American children.

With climate changing and finally doing away with some efforts of racism, which has been normalized for generations, it’s time to make changes.

I ask that the board make changes and remove names of the past who have committed genocide and murdered, killing thousands of Navajo, Apache, ancestors of 19 pueblos in New Mexico, and other Native American people in North America.

The board should no longer honor and remove their names from our schools:

- Kit Carson - murdered and killed thousands of children, women and men of the Navajo/Dine, Apaches from Dulce, and Mescalero communities.
- Onate, Coronado - murdered and killed by cutting off feet of children, women and men in the 19 Pueblos.
- Tony Hillerman - exploited the Navajo/Diné culture and exposed ceremonial secrets to a society that didn’t appreciate it. In our Diné sense of culture committed sacrilege.
- Grant - a man who drove, murdered and killed thousands of Native American people during and after the Civil War.
- Lew Wallace - a soldier during Civil War who killed and murdered thousands of Native American people.
- John Adams, Jefferson, Washington, Monroe, Taft, Harrison, Garfield, Cleveland, Polk - presidents who ordered to murder and kill thousands of Native American people on the East Coast and Southwest area.

I will not elaborate any further. I’m assuming you are educators and to some point read the U.S. history.

LaVerne Holtsol Moreno  
Albuquerque, N.M.  
(Hometown: Lukachukai, Ariz.)

### Illegal hemp farms, Asian workers

I want to address the illegal hemp growing in Gadii’ahi, New Mexico. I live by an access road where Dineh Benally and foreign Asians are starting to build an illegal hemp farm facility on a local community member’s farm.

My first encounter with them was on June 13. I noticed trash being thrown on the road near my home on which they were using to bring in a semi-truck and several vans full of foreign Asians.

I confronted these individuals not to throw trash or damage the road with their heavy equipment. As I was delivering my message to these Asian foreigners who speak or understand little to no English, Mr. Dineh Benally drove up and I conveyed the same message to him along with my understanding that

hemp farming is an illegal activity on the Navajo Nation.

He then said that hemp farming was not illegal and to do my research on it.

Mr. Benally tried to give me \$20 for my trouble for picking up after his Asian workers, which makes me think who else he pays off to operate his illegal hemp farming activities.

Mr. Benally’s rebuttal to my argument was that I was jealous of what he is trying to accomplish, which is viewed as an illegal drug dealer. He stated that he has authority to build hemp farms, because he is the farm board president. Although he is the Shiprock Farm Board president, he still has to follow the laws, both federal and Navajo Nation.

I contacted the Gadii’ahi Farm Board president to intervene in this illegal farming activity in which Mr. Benally and his community business partner were informed hemp farming is illegal and the consequences to this activity. They both continued to bring in their heavy equipment and Asian foreigners to begin building. So every day the building of this hemp farm facility continues.

Mr. Benally’s Asian workers blatantly disregard all laws, including the nightly and weekend curfews. They also drive erratically on the roads to our once quiet community by tailgating vehicles, passing vehicles in no passing zones and driving into the canal road at 10 p.m. at night causing a disturbance to those who are trying to rest.

I have contacted the Shiprock police department to report these activities, but to no avail, it is not on the priority list to address.

I was informed that Mr. Benally’s Asian workers are allowed to disobey the weekend curfew law as they have an essential worker letter indicating hemp farming is defined as an essential work activity. I don’t understand how hemp farming is essential.

As a voting Navajo citizen, I would like to request for the Navajo Nation president, attorney general and other authorities to investigate Mr. Benally’s blatant disregard of the Navajo Nation business regulatory laws and hiring of foreign Asians to build and operate these illegal hemp farms on the Navajo Nation.

No one else is above the law, including Mr. Dineh Benally.

Michael J. Roy  
Gadii’ahi, N.M.



# Navajo Times

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# Census back in full swing, with precautions

BY RIMA KRISST  
NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** — You need not look any further than the recent allocation of \$600 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to Navajo to know how important U.S. Census data is.

That allocation, made by the U.S. Treasury Department, was based on Navajo census population data — just one more reminder that the CARES Act money is truly “the people’s money” and being counted counts.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there were more than 332,000 Navajo citizens living in the U.S., with approximately 173,000 living on the reservation.

Many are eager to find out what the 2020 numbers will look like, but that requires everyone to do their part by being counted.

As of yesterday, the national response rate for the 2020 Census questionnaire in the U.S. overall was 61.6 percent while the response rate for Navajo is 2.2 percent, which means there is much work still to be done.

Part of the disparity in responses on Navajo is due to the coronavirus pandemic, which caused a delay in delivering questionnaires to Navajo households.

Off-reservation citizens with standard U.S. addresses received their census information in the mail so there was little or no interruption because of COVID-19.

As Arbin Mitchell explained just three days after the Navajo Census operation started on March 15, the entire Census came to a halt nationwide because of safety concerns and emergency orders.

“We were in full swing,” said Mitchell, who is in charge of the Census effort on Navajo. “Our momentum was good and we had a good plan going in.”

Within those first three days, over 3,000 Census questionnaires were delivered on Navajo.

Since that time, Navajo Census employees have been working a reduced schedule from home and completing online trainings, including a COVID-19 overview, said Mitchell.

Key managerial staff have continued working in the Census office in Window Rock, and have been busy doing outreach to leadership and chapters through email and social media.

Now the “Update Leave Operation” workers are once again mobilized across Navajo and are delivering questionnaires to people’s doorsteps in plastic bags.

### Safety first

The enumerators are taking every coronavirus safety precaution as required by the Navajo Nation, including wearing masks and using hand-sanitizer, said Mitchell.

“If you see them in your area, don’t worry, because they are doing ‘no contact’ drop-offs,” assured Navajo 2020 Complete Count Commission Chairman James Adakai of Oljato Chapter. “Don’t be intimidated or scared. We’re just moving forward with the plan to get everyone counted.”

Because their work is considered an essential government function, the Navajo census workers received special permission from the Navajo Health Command Center to do census packet drop-offs during curfew hours.

“The enumerator will go to each house and update addresses on their devices,” he said. “There’s no interaction with the household.” Mitchell says as of right now he has approximately 210 employees, and he is looking to hire up to another hundred enumerators this week.

Before the pandemic hit, they were already actively hiring, and have a pool of over 1,000 applicants who are ready to go to work, but still need to go through background checks. The deadline by which all of the questionnaire drop-offs have to happen is July 7.

After that, workers will transition to the “Non-Response Operation,” where they go back into the field to follow up with those who failed to submit their census forms. That will occur between Aug. 11 and Oct. 31, the deadline for completing the census.

### ‘We have to make it work’

Mitchell says he hopes all the people who receive their questionnaires will self-respond, so enumerators won’t have to return for an in-person visit during the pandemic.

He said, for example, if only 20 percent of people self-respond, his team will have to go back to 80 percent of the households.

“For the people that don’t self-respond, we’re going to knock on the door saying that you didn’t send your questionnaire back so now we’re going to do an interview,” said Mitchell.

There are three options to self-respond and avoid that, he said: internet, phone or mail.

“This is the very first time in 130 years since we’ve been doing the Census that the Navajo Nation is doing a self-response,” he said.

There is a caveat, however, with the internet and phone response. You must provide the identification number that is on the questionnaire form that has been or will be delivered to you. “Wait until you receive the

packet, which has your ID number,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell recognizes not everyone has good phone or internet connectivity.

“We have to overcome these barriers,” he said. “We have to make it work.”

He said the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development website has a map that shows where free Wi-Fi internet connectivity is offered on the Nation.

“We’re telling people, if you don’t have Wi-Fi, you can go to a chapter parking lot and fill out the census,” said Mitchell.

He said those individuals who have not received the questionnaire or think they might have been missed it can call the Navajo Census office at 928-288-6234 and request one.

That same number can be called if people have questions about how to fill out the form.

As a convenient alternative, the questionnaire can be easily done over the phone by calling the national Census phone line at 844-330-2020. To complete the census online, visit 2020census.gov.

Regardless of how you choose to complete the Census questionnaire, your information is kept anonymous and is only used to produce statistics. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to keep your answers confidential.

### ‘We want to have an impact’

Getting a complete census count on Navajo is critically important to the future of the Nation because it impacts so many vital federally funded services, including schools, health programs, emergency response, housing, food assistance, roads, and more.

“It’s very important that we get our fair share of what is given out by the federal government,” said Mitchell. “We benefit from these programs as Navajo.”

Accurate Census data also ensures equitable representation in government at the county, state and national level, as districting is also dependent on census population data.

“We want to have an impact as Native Americans to make sure our voices are heard,” said Mitchell.

Adakai said that while it is a tough time in the midst of the pandemic, he encourages everyone to take a proactive approach when they receive their Census packet.

In a June 10 press release, the Navajo Nation Council urged Diné to respond to the Census as soon as possible in order to secure full community funding for future generations.

“Our main priority is to get every Navajo person counted,” said Navajo Nation Speaker Seth Damon.

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## St. Michaels Family Dollar applied for liquor license

**ST. MICHAELS** — The Family Dollar recently posted a notice of application to sell alcoholic beverages in the store.

The Apache County Board of Supervisors will recommend to the Arizona Liquor Board to either grant or deny the liquor license.

A hearing for by the supervisors will be on July 28 at 8:30 a.m. (MST) at Apache County Clerk’s office (75 W. Cleveland St., St. Johns, AZ).

Time and date for the hearing is subject to change. Verify the meeting date and time by calling 928-337-7502.

In a press release from the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, the office was involved in the denial of transferring liquor licenses from one party to the next in 2014. It was clear from this experience that land set aside for the sale of alcohol becomes sacred ground and is very difficult to change the land status once it is designated for liquor sales.

It is very important that citizens and businesses within one-mile radius of the Family Dollar store to get involved in expressing their position on this matter. Unfortunately, the Arizona Liquor Department is least concerned about the social impacts of alcohol abuse in communities; their concern centers on the legal sale of alcohol. Online applications are at <https://azliquor.gov/assets/documents/board/FY2019/ProtestInstructions.pdf>. Contact the Arizona Liquor board at 800 W. Washington, 5th Floor, Phoenix AZ 85007 or call 602-542-9789.

## Nez says New Mexico still failing students

**SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)** — The leader of one of the largest Native American tribes in the U.S. called Wednesday for the governor of New Mexico to end efforts to fight a court ruling that orders improvements in education for members of his tribe and other vulnerable groups.

The comments from President Jonathan Nez come ahead of a court hearing next week in which Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham will ask a state judge to dismiss a consolidated lawsuit representing Native American and Hispanic plaintiffs.

“The lawsuit needs to be pursued so Native students can be provided adequate education programs and services necessary to learn and thrive,” Nez said. “Our students deserve an educational environment that prioritizes their culture and unique needs. It is time for our Native students to have the same opportunities as other students.”

In 2018, a judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, ordering the state to address inequality in funding and academic outcomes for low-income, Native American and Hispanic students — which account for about 80% of children.

The suit — initially filed against Lujan Grisham’s Republican predecessor Susana Martinez — threatens to wrestle control of policy away from the state Public Education Department and control of funding away from the state Legislature.



# As Ceremonial shuts down, planners focus on next year's centennial

**BY BILL DONOVAN**  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

**LOS ANGELES** – For only the second time in its almost 100-year history, the Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial will not be taking place in August. “The city decided to cancel us this year,” said Dudley Byerley, who has been overseeing the event for the past four years. There had been some questions as to whether the event would be

held this summer because of the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, but back in May Byerley said the Ceremonial board of directors decided to hold an abbreviated version since it was possible that travel would be restricted because of the pandemic. The Ceremonial was first canceled in 1973 after protesters disputed the living quarters for the dancers during the iconic event. The board was still prepared to go

through with an abbreviated version this year when the city, which owns the park where it is held, decided to call it off this year. The park has been closed down since mid-March because of the virus. To prevent the spread of the disease, the city had limited events to having no more than 100 attendees at any one time. “It’s a shame because we could have held an abbreviated Ceremonial under those conditions,” Byerley said.

The Ceremonial was prepared to take social distancing into account when holding this year’s events, he said. A small rodeo could have been held as well as Indian dances and the Ceremonial would at least have had a presence, he said. This year’s event was also being downsized because of decreased sponsorships. Many of the sponsors had to withdraw financial support because they had closed down their operations because of the virus.

But there was no way of holding the event if Red Rock Park was not available so Ceremonial officials have decided to spend their time on making plans for the event’s centennial next summer. The 2021 event is still expected to be bigger than any of the events held in the past with Ceremonial officials getting sponsors to donate an extra \$100,000 to be awarded to winners of the annual arts and crafts competition.

## Newcomb man faces more than 5 years for sexual assault

**BY BILL DONOVAN**  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

**LOS ANGELES** – A Newcomb, New Mexico, man is now facing up to 63 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to sexually assaulting a minor at a family member’s residence in 2014. Garrith Bitsilly, 33, is currently being held in custody by the U.S. Marshall’s Office in Albuquerque. No date has been set for sentencing. Bitsilly was accused of sexually assaulting the girl, who was under the age of 13 at the time, on several occasions during a seven-month period. According to the complaint, the accuser informed authorities of the assaults in February of 2019.

Bitsilly was arrested shortly in May. She told a forensic child expert that Bitsilly forced her to watch porn with him. While watching porn, she said he would force her to touch him inappropriately while he did the same to her. Bitsilly agreed to be interviewed by FBI agents after he was arrested and said there was an occasion when he was watching porn and she came in. As he covered himself with a pillow, he said she asked him what he was doing. He said he got up and was preparing to walk her out of the room when she accidentally touched him inappropriately. In his plea agreement, Bitsilly admitted he forced the accuser to touch him.

### POLICE REPORT

#### State Police: Wanted man was 1 of 2 killed in head-on crash

**GALLUP, N.M. (AP)** — One of two people killed in a head-on crash on Interstate 40 near Gallup following a police chase was a wanted man from northwestern New Mexico, authorities said Tuesday. According to the New Mexico State Police, Gerard John, 25, of Brimhall and Ray Lee Jim, 21, of Fort Wingate were killed in the early morning of June 6. Their pickup collided with a tractor-trailer rig while driving the wrong way after being chased by Gallup police who had broken

off the pursuit before the crash occurred, the State Police said. Felony warrants for John alleged armed robbery and multiple other crimes. The State Police said previously that the pickup sped away from a motel where Gallup police went in response to a report of two men brandishing a gun. A State Police sergeant who fired a shotgun at least once at the wrong-way pickup on I-40 remained on standard administrative leave pending an investigation, the State Police said Tuesday. Neither person in the big rig was injured in the crash.



NAVAJO TIMES | DONOVAN QUINTERO

### Thin blue line

A “thin blue line” flag that represents law enforcement is carried by a motorcyclist who participated in a procession on June 19 for the hearse carrying fallen Navajo Nation Senior Police Officer Michael Lee, who died from COVID-19.

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# Navajo Times

DINE BI NAALT'SOOS

REPORTER | Pauly Denetclaw





**This was the scene at Amá dóó Alchini Bighan Inc. in Chinle Monday. Electronics, a dolly and baby formula were stolen from the nonprofit domestic violence program.**

COURTESY PHOTO

## Chinle DV program sees break-in

BY CINDY YURTH  
TSEYI' BUREAU

**CHINLE** — Lorena Hallwood wasn't planning on spending much time at the office Monday. Her husband's sister had passed over the weekend. "I thought I'd just put in a couple of hours and then come home and help the family with the arrangements," said the longtime director of Amá dóó Alchini Bighan, Chinle's domestic violence program. But when she opened the door to her office, she found a terrible mess. The building had been ransacked. A laptop, three projectors, a camera, food, facemasks, a dolly and several cases of baby formula were missing. "It had been a horrible week, with a death in the family and

fighting with the tribe over funding (see accompanying story), and then this happens," she sighed. Fortunately, no client data was compromised and the office was insured. Halwood estimated the loss and damage at \$5,000 to \$10,000. She said the burglars appeared to have used a screwdriver or similar object to pry open the doors, and there was evidence they had spent the night in the building. A tribal government office near the Chinle Chapter house was also burglarized over the weekend and computers were stolen. Halwood said the newly formed Dzil Asdzaan Command Center had offered to replace the laptop.

BY KRISTA ALLEN  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

**JÁDÍ TOOH, ARIZ.** — Major layoffs are on the horizon for employees at Antelope Point Marina.

About 100 employees, a majority of whom are Diné, could be laid off in the coming days because the Navajo project's revenue has dropped by about two-thirds, reflecting the continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I know it's a struggle and we've lost sleep in trying to find out a way of how we can maintain that staff," said Michael Anderson, general manager at Antelope Point. "So, over the last 90 days, we provided that. But when the (revenues) are dry, there's no way we can pay those employees. It's not what we want!"

The marina currently has 285 employees, which is 70 percent of normal. About 90 of those employees are under stay-at-home or shelter-in-place limitations imposed in the Navajo Nation. The marina instituted pay cuts for those employees while they stay home.

The marina usually employs around 325 employees every year during the regular season, which is from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. And depending on projects at hand, the marina employs up to 450 workers.

"That's kind of where we're at," Anderson said. "We hit a high of 80 percent about this time last year. We're back down to maintaining about 70 percent because of everything that's going on. That's one of the things we're at a crossroads right now as to how we're going to continue when the season's up and running."

## Layoffs loom as Antelope Point navigates restrictions



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES | KRISTA ALLEN

**The first and secondary overflow parking lots are currently full at Antelope Point Marina, where the marina administration is planning 100 layoffs in the coming days as coronavirus lingers in the Navajo Nation.**

The season started this year with reduced capacity and limited services nearly a month ago. The only services allowed are security and Antelope Point Executive Services, or APEX, and Turnaround, both of which are houseboat services for private owners — customers who come from California, New Mexico, Utah, and from across the Grand Canyon state.

"That is a good portion of the business," Anderson said. "Those (customers) are private owners who have their boat (in the slips) ... they maintain year-round. They still come out here. What you see in the Turn-around area, that's them."

"And that's really only one-third of the business that could be generated out here. If all of our services were up and running, it'd be three times what you see out there. That's a valid concern."

Anderson said this brings executive management team to a question: What can be done?

The marina cannot open a launch ramp because the other four marinas — Wahweap, Dangling Rope, Halls Crossing, and Bullfrog — and other concessionaires on Lake Powell are now open and serving customers. Antelope Point has a public launch ramp but it's currently closed

and there are no services there.

Anderson said the marina can't provide services to the public, which affects the tour business, boat rentals, charter services, fee booths, dry storage maintenance operations, the enclosed storage, the fuel dock, the RV park, the floating Jádi Tooh restaurant, and the marina's two gift shops.

"All of those provide opportunities that help employment," Anderson said. "They also provide opportunities for revenue generating which equates to taxes that effectively return back to the Navajo Nation."

Kenneth Runnels, the chief administrator for the marina, said the site is a Navajo site and it has two sole purposes: Diné economics and Diné jobs — the reasons Antelope Point is operational.

But, Melvin Schoppmann said, marina could have been shut down.

The marina deals with dual jurisdiction because it is located on two parcels of land, one belonging to the Navajo Nation and the other to the National Park Service.

"So it makes it real interesting to navigate," said Schoppmann, the government liaison for the marina, adding that the parking lots, including the first

and secondary overflow lots, are currently full.

"With a normal parking lot like that, we would have been at full capacity employee-wise and at full capacity revenue-wise," he said. "Because of the current situation, we're running with a skeleton crew because we're being compliant ... with the executive orders from the Navajo Nation."

There are about 500 boats in the marina's boat storage and several hundred boats in the wet slips. Schoppmann said the marina cannot stop those boat owners from accessing their boat because it's their personal property.

Jobs such as water (and wastewater) treatment plant technicians and operators have been deemed vital and it is critical that these workers remain on duty, said Anderson and Schoppmann.

There are only a limited number of essential staff, but the marina is getting bombarded with people, said Schoppmann.

"But we can't really justify bringing more people in because we're not — there's no fraction of revenue from these people," he said. "Thankfully though, the Navajo Nation, both the executive and the legislative, is working with us to try and help us find solutions to this."

The president's office did not respond to a request for comment.

"We value our employees here and we want to keep everybody employed," Runnels said. "We've supported the tribal members who are employed by us or who are currently (under shelter-at-home limitations). We've continued to support them, and we will continue to support them. We've had some employees who've had some really tragic losses and some tragic things happened that we want to support our people."

The date for a complete re-open is set for July 5.

"Right now, it's really hard when our hands are tied and we're struggling with everything at hand," Anderson said.

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NAVAJO TIMES | DONOVAN QUINTERO

## Closed due to virus

**Signs are posted on a closed gate at the Jeddito Chapter House on Saturday in Jeddito, Ariz. A post on the chapter's social media page on Friday stated the chapter would be closed for two weeks due to a resident who tested positive for COVID-19 positive. The person entered the office and possibly exposed chapter workers and officials. The post said they would be closed for two weeks.**

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Gaming, Horsemen Lodge agree to termination

**FLAGSTAFF** — The lease between the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise and the Horsemen Lodge property north of Flagstaff has become a victim of the coronavirus pandemic.

The two parties agreed to an early termination of the lease. The Horsemen Lodge Steakhouse was forced to close on March 19 due to the pandemic.

The purchase of the property was heralded as an effort by Navajo Gaming to branch out its businesses and marketing. Alvin Patel Holdings, LLC,

agreed to the early termination due to persistent expenses and the inability to generate revenue.

Steve Alvin, the former owner, said, "This was a great relationship and we continue to support Navajo Gaming's efforts in building their connection with this community."

#### National Center brings Native Edge Institute

**CHICAGO** — "Economic Resilience in the Face of COVID-19: How to Maneuver and Build Your Business During an Economic Downturn" is set for July 16 by the National Center

for American Indian Enterprise Development's Native Edge Institute.

The virtual, to accommodate social distancing, event is funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency.

In Chicago, the National Center will bring together a small group to share expertise with presentations webcast for free to the public. NEI Connecticut follows on July 9.

NEIs are one-day, in-person or virtual training events that provide established and aspiring business owners with business training.

If you want to vote from home this year, you can cast your ballot by mail. Contact your county recorder to request a one-time ballot for the August 4th primary election, or sign up for the Permanent Early Voting List to vote from home for all elections. Independents need to specify which party's ballot they want. You can also vote early in person starting July 8. Visit [AZCleanElections.gov/Vote-By-Mail](https://www.AZCleanElections.gov/Vote-By-Mail) or call 1-833-207-8960 to learn more.





OBITUARIES



Jimmie DeGroat

**MARIANO LAKE, N.M.** — Graveside service for Jimmie DeGroat, of Fort Defiance, was held June 20 at the family cemetery in Mariano Lake, New Mexico, with Rev. Stanley Jim officiating. Jimmie was born May 28, 1958, in Crownpoint, into the Áshiihi (Salt People Clan), born for Kiyaa’áanii (Towering House Clan). He passed away June 12, 2020, in Santa Fe. Jimmie was self-employed as a construction worker, silversmith and artist. Jimmie is survived by his wife, Virginia Hardy; sons, Delfred DeGroat and Kevin DeGroat; daughter, Shaandin DeGroat; brothers, Jack DeGroat, Jerry DeGroat and Jay DeGroat; and sisters, Joyceann Kenneth, Jean Tahe, Jenny DeGroat, and Karen Mann-ly. Jimmie is preceded in death by his parents, Hazel and Harry DeGroat; and son, Melfred DeGroat. A reception will take place at a later date. Rollie Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

Michael E. Lee

**CHINLE** — Funeral services for Michael E. Lee, 50, of Chinle, will be held Thursday, June 25, at 10 a.m. at The Potter’s House in Chinle, with Pastor Artie Aragon officiating. Burial will follow in Del Muerto, Arizona. Michael was born Sept. 8, 1969, in Fort Defiance, into the Tl’áásh-chí’i (Red Bottom People Clan), born for Tò baazhní’ázhi (Two Who Came to Water Clan). He passed away June 18, 2020, in Phoenix. Michael graduated from Chinle High School in May of 1987 and worked for Tsaille Veterinary for one year, bus driver and assistant teacher for Navajo Nation Head Start for four years, 10 years for the Window Rock Police Department, and 19 years for the Chinle Police Department. Michael enjoyed horseback riding, running, traveling, hauling and feeding livestock, watching Star Trek, and helping his community. Michael is survived by his wife, Virginia Lee; sons, Mario E. Lee and Erik E. Lee; daughter, Mikhail E. Lee; mother, Betty Ahasteen; stepfather, Lowery Ahasteen; and sister, Herberta John. Michael is preceded in death by his father, Herbert E. Lee; grandfather, Chester Kadelt; maternal grandparents, Jim and Barbara Ben; and paternal grandparents, Kenneth and Bessie Lee. Honorary pallbearers will be Calvin Redhorse, Anderson Ben, Amos Ben, Garrett John, Derrick John, Irvin Attson, Walter Bia, and Valentino Billie. A reception will take place at the Chinle Police District, following services. Rollie Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

Larry Mallahan

**CRYSTAL, N.M.** — Graveside service for Larry Mallahan of Crystal, New Mexico, was held June 22 at the family cemetery in Crystal. Memorial services were held June 19, 2020, in Mesa, Arizona. Larry was born Dec. 10, 1958, in Fort Defiance, into the ‘Áshiihi (Salt People Clan), born for Tábaahá (Water’s Edge Clan). He passed away June 11, 2020. Larry attended Brigham Young University and University of Phoenix, where he received his MBA. He worked for Pittsburgh & Midway Coal Mine, Chevron Mining and Peabody Mine. Larry enjoyed farming, ranching and was an avid sports fan. Larry is survived by his son, Christian Mallahan; daughter, Jade Mallahan; brothers, Marlin Mallahan, Ernest Mallahan and Francis Mallahan; and sister, Mae Mallahan. Larry is preceded in death by his father, Joe Mallahan; mother, Marjorie Mallahan; and brother, Frank Mallahan. Pallbearers were Christian Mallahan, Marlin Mallahan, Ernest Mallahan, Franklin Mallahan, Michael Mallahan, and Colin Tompson. Honorary pallbearers were Francis Mallahan, Gary Mallahan, Marvin Curley, and Clifford Tompson.



Jodell F. Thomas-Haskie

**INDIAN WELLS, ARIZ.** — Graveside service for Jodell “Sissy” Thomas-Haskie, 64, of Indian Wells, Arizona, will be held Thursday, June 25, at 10 a.m. (DST) at the Haskie family plot in Indian Wells, with Cecil Haskie officiating. Jodell was born July 9, 1955, in Los Angeles, California, into the Tl’izi láni (Many Goats Clan), born for ‘Áshiihi (Salt People Clan). She passed away June 19, 2020, in Gilbert, Arizona, after a valiant battle against cancer. Jodell is survived by her husband, Cecil Haskie; son, Christopher G. Nez Jr.; daughters, Kimberly S. Thomas, Shannon Thomas Marr, Roxanne Haskie, and Cecelia Light; brothers, Joseph Thomas, Ronald Thomas, Elton Arthur, Holbrook Towne, Sanford Towne, and Leroy Towne Jr.; sisters, Erline Holtsoi, Christina Arthur and Royetta Towne; and 22 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Jodell is preceded in death by her parents, Joe Thomas and Grace H. Foley; grandparents, Mary Slivers Foley and John J. Foley Sr.; and grandson, Michael Thomas. A reception for immediate family only will take place in Burnside, Arizona, following service. Summit Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Peggy Sage-Bolszio

**JEDDITO, ARIZ.** — Graveside service for Peggy Sage-Bolszio, 74, of Jeddito, Arizona, was held June 23 at the Jeddito community cemetery. Peggy was born Aug. 25, 1945, in Jeddito, into the Tábaahá (Water’s Edge Clan), born for Ma’ii deeshgiizhinii (Coyote Pass Clan). She passed away June 13, 2020, in Jeddito. Peggy graduated from Barstow High School and attended cosmetology school in Phoenix. She enjoyed being a beautician for many years and took a break to work for Motorola and later returning to doing hair again. Peggy enjoyed spending time with her family, shopping, going to the casino, reading books, and watching her favorite television shows. She was a loving person who had a fun personality and a great sense of humor. Peggy is survived by her husband, William Bolszio; sons, Daniel Bex and Christopher Bex; daughters, Debby Newman and Stephanie Bolszio; brothers, Danny Sage and Gilbert Sage; and seven grandchildren. Peggy is preceded in death by her parents, Elsie and Charlie Sage. Pallbearers were Daniel T. Bex, Christopher J. Bex, Danny Sage, Terry Newman, and Kyle Pashkewitz. Silver Creek Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

Ruth Ann Jim

**HOLBROOK, ARIZ.** — Graveside service for Ruth Ann Jim, 77, was held June 24 in Holbrook, Arizona. Ruth was born Feb. 3, 1943, in Rabbit Springs, White Cone, Arizona, to Todacheenie Nez Begay and Hasbah James Begay. She was Kinyaa’áanii (Towering House Clan), born to Tábaahá (Water’s Edge Clan). Her maternal grandfather was Tsénjikiní (Honey Combed Rock People) and paternal grandfather was Tódich’iiní (Bitter Water). She passed away June 16, 2020. Ruth resided in Fort Defiance most of her life and attended Keams Canyon Boarding School in her early years. She then attended Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon, for six years, graduating from Holbrook High School in 1964. Ruth attended Albuquerque Business School earning an associate’s degree in accounting in 1966. Soon after she began working for the Navajo Nation as a court auditor. In 1978, she began her job with the BIA as a reality assistant and retired in 2008. Ruth married Larry Jim in 1968 and raised three children, Jennifer, Conrad, and Marwin, and later was blessed with a grandson, Robert Jim. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. Ruth enjoyed taking road trips around the western U.S. and even flew to Washington DC for a presidential inauguration. She also supported her nieces and nephews by attending college and military graduations. Ruth was a classy lady, always dressed to impress and a strong proud Navajo woman. She will be remembered by family and friends as a life fulfilled with love, laughter, friendship, and vacations. Ruth is survived by her son, Marwin; brother, Theodore Begay; and sisters, Lucy Begay and Pauline Ben. Ruth is preceded in death by her husband, Larry Jim; daughter, Jennifer Jim; son, Conrad Jim; and grandson, Robert Jim. Pallbearers were Randall Begay, Willie Ben, Willis Ben, and Delbert Begay. Owens Livingston Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.



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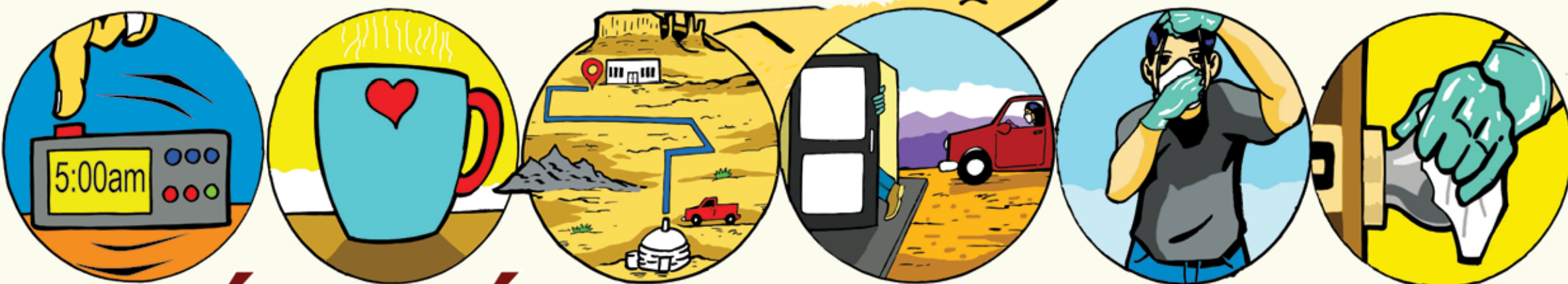




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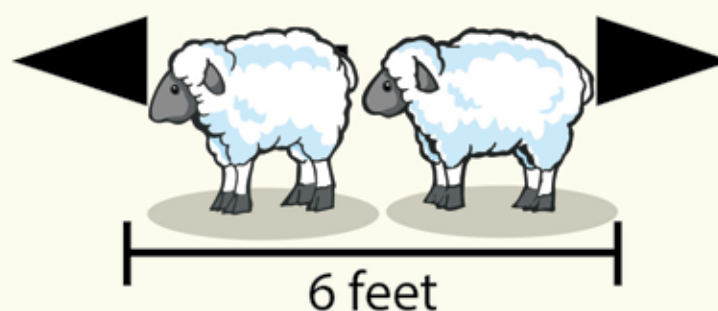
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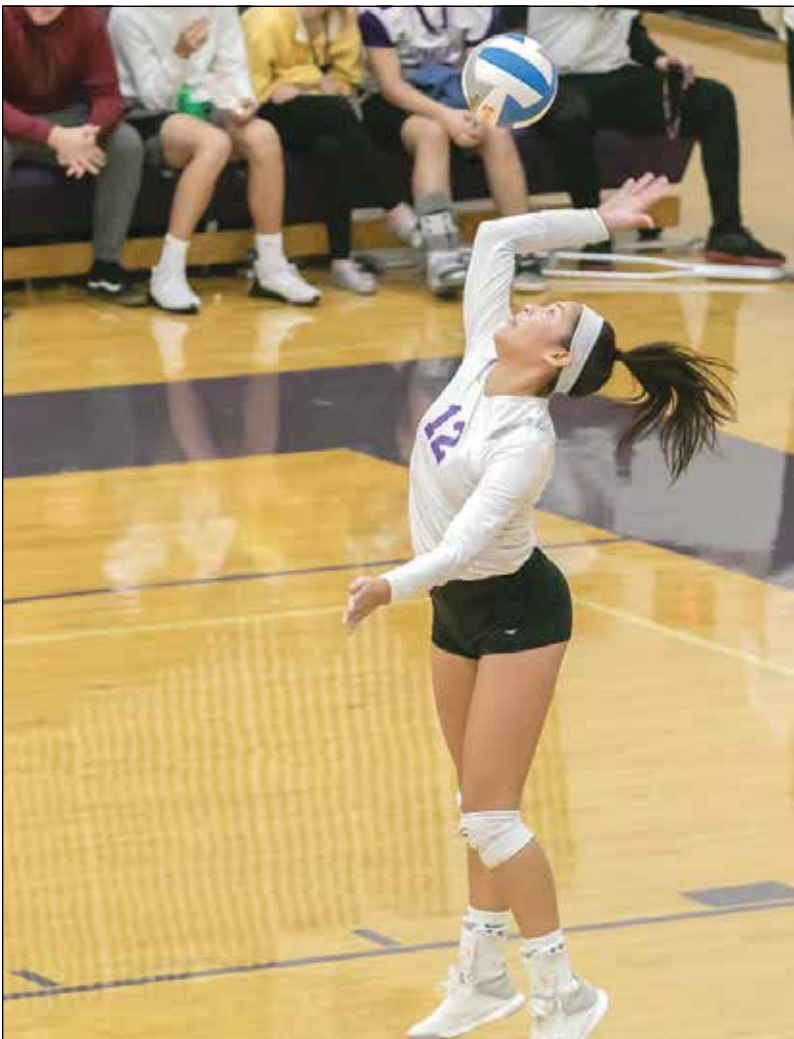
Hannah Tecumseh signed her letter of intent to play for the Ferris State University women's volleyball program in Big Rapids, Michigan. The Battle Creek Lakeview grad is pictured her with USA Michigan Club Director Rob Buck (left), high school coach Heather Sawyer and her mother Melissa Tecumseh.

# MICHIGAN DINÉ TO PLAY FOR FERRIS STATE

BY QUENTIN JODIE  
NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** — Hannah Tecumseh was pretty close to signing with Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. It was a school that was close to her paternal roots as she grew up in nearby Hoyt, Kansas, a small rural community near the Potawatomi Indian reservation. The Battle Creek Lakeview High grad felt that Haskell would be a great place for members of her dad's family to come watch her play. But when the opportunity to compete for the Ferris State University women's volleyball program fell onto her lap in her home state of Michigan, the Diné Native couldn't pass it up. "To be honest it's really hard to believe that this happened," the 5'9" outside hitter said. "When I was a freshman I knew I wanted to play college volleyball but I didn't think I would go D-II, which is crazy to think about it. "I'm very thankful and grateful that I'm going D-II," she added. "I know that the college qualified for the NCAA tournament last year so that's really exciting." Hannah is the daughter of Frank and Melissa Tecumseh. She has two siblings, older sister Rose and younger brother Myles. Her maternal parents are Carl and Maggie Cooke. The tipping point for Tecumseh to sign with the Big Rapids, Michigan school was simple. As an enrolled member of a federally recognized Native American tribe while living in Michigan for at least a year, Tecumseh will have her tuition waived while she attends the public university. "That was the big game changer for us," Hannah's mom said. "We knew that going out-of-state was going to be expensive so she chose to stay in-state." Melissa, who played at Window Rock High, said her daughter had at least 10 offers with Ferris State being the only Division II school to offer her a scholarship. "Her selection was not easy," she said. "She went through weeks of conversing with all the coaches that were interested in her." And although she did not get a chance to visit the college due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hannah feels that Ferris State is a perfect fit.

SEE PLAY | B3



Hannah Tecumseh serves the ball for the Battle Creek Lakeview volleyball team in Michigan. The Diné native will take her talents to Ferris State University next season.



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES | SMITH RODEO PHOTOS  
Devyn Dennison makes a successful catch in the breakaway event at a recent rodeo. Dennison won the year-end title in the Southwest Indian Rodeo Association and earned her qualification for the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

## Dennison wins title; still feels 'defeated' by stolen season

BY QUENTIN JODIE  
NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** — Winning the Southwest Indian Rodeo Association breakaway title came as a surprise for Devyn Dennison. The Coolidge, Arizona cowgirl was hoping for a full season but due to the coronavirus she emerged as the year-end winner as the association completed three rodeos before the pandemic hit. Dennison finished the season standings with 16.5 points, which was 2.5 better than reserve champion Kaycee Werdel. "With the season being so short this was unexpected," Dennison said. "We have two of the toughest regions down here. We have some tough girls and there are six, seven and maybe eight girls that can really rope." Admittedly, Dennison thought the coronavirus was going to fizzle out by the summer so she had planned to hit a number of rodeos with her

SEE STOLEN | B3



FILE  
Daniel Etsitty of Team Stewart attempts to saddle up their ornery equine during the wild horse race at last year's Gallup Intertribal Indian Ceremonial Rodeo in this file photo. This year's event has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Pandemic forces cancelation of 2020 Ceremonial

BY QUENTIN JODIE  
NAVAJO TIMES

**WINDOW ROCK** — The Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial is the latest event to fall victim to the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus. The 10-day event was canceled earlier this week. The organizers were hoping to move forward with hosting this year's event, which would have celebrated its 99th year. The events had been scheduled for July 31 to Aug. 9. "The main thing is the safety of everybody," Ceremonial board president Kyle Tom said. "For a big gathering like the Ceremonial we were looking at ways of putting on a scaled back version with a powwow, rodeo and a art show."

SEE FORCES | B2

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# FORCES

FROM PAGE 1

Tom said the organizers also considered hosting a one-night performance while adhering to social distancing practices. They also contemplated on live streaming the event but the planning and implementation to do that seemed implausible.

"The logistic behind that with the facility, video crew and volunteers to stream our event would have taken more time than we had," he said. "We still had a little bit of hope that it would happen but instead of things getting better in April and May things were getting worse."

In recent years, the organizers had added an old-school flavor by adding rodeo events from yesteryears such as Buffalo Riding, Hide Race, Pony Express Race and Wild Cow Milking.

Then-board president Beverly Byerley said the Ceremonial felt a need to bring back the old-school rodeo, as a way to reminisce what it was like back in the old days.

"Last year we had a good bunch of folks there and they really enjoyed what happened 30, 40 years ago," Byerley said to the Navajo Times. "I think that's what it's going to take to make the Ceremonial great again, bringing back what we used to do back in the old days."

Some of the events canceled this year included the Mega-Bucks Bull Riding, Iron Cow-



A hide race participant keeps his grip during last year's Gallup Intertribal Indian Ceremonial Rodeo. The organizers of the annual event canceled this year's event under the cloud of the pandemic.

girl Challenge and the open rodeo, which featured a short round performance.

For the past few months, Tom said he's been in contact with local and state authorities on developing ways to keep the Ceremonial going but there were a number of factors that resulted in the cancellation.

Tom said he talked to Gallup mayor Louie Bonaguidi last week and the new mayor informed the Ceremonial board that with the city has being on furlough so they had to cut back their staffing at Red Rock Park.

And with the pandemic affecting the way we shop, Tom said their partners and sponsors have been hit hard financially.

"They have taken a huge hit," he said.

Thirdly, Tom said they had no choice but to cancel due to the state's restriction on large gatherings.

"After I had my meeting with the mayor he said it's better off to look at next year, which we anticipated," he said. "The board met and we all agreed that the health and safety is our first and foremost concern."

"It wasn't a risk we could take for the safety of our performers, buyers, vendors and visitors," he added.

To his knowledge, Tom said the Ceremonial was canceled one other year when there was some protest about the living quarters for some of dancers.

"Over the past 99 years, the Ceremonial has gone through the Great Depression, through various wars, big epidemics and financial crises," he said. "It's endured a lot through all those years and the only other time it's been canceled is when there were protesters."

As one of the biggest economic drivers in the area, Tom said the cancellation of the Ceremonial is going to be felt.



Barrel racer Jannon Hale eyes the barrel at last year's 98th Annual Gallup Intertribal Indian Ceremonial Rodeo. The annual event was canceled earlier this week due to the pandemic.

"The economic impact for the Intertribal Indian Ceremonial is going to be a pretty big blow," he said.

Because of the economic impact, Tom said he wanted to keep the Ceremonial going, as it will affect a lot of the self-employed Native American whether they are in the food industry or involved with selling their crafts.

"There's a lot of people that make their money that depend on the tourism industry with an events like ours," he said. "They have been hit since March and I hope our commu-

nity can keep our artists in mind. They're struggling right now."

And although the organizers are set on making plans for next year's event, Tom said it's going to be sorely missed.

"I know that the Ceremonial is a family tradition," he said. "It's not only a generational event for us, but it's a part of people's family. They look forward to come in and be in certain dance groups or watching the rodeo or buying from their favorite artists and looking to see who's won Best in Show."

## AIA gauging reinstatement plans with surveys

**PHOENIX** — The Arizona Inter-scholastic Association is reaching out to its school members in an attempt to gather information on how to proceed for the upcoming fall sports season.

"In order for the AIA to make the most informed decisions regarding the starting of athletic activity this fall, two surveys will be e-mailed to each member school principal in July that will gauge schools' plans on reopening for students and reinstatement of athletic teams," the AIA said in a statement released on June 24.

The first survey will be released in early July with a due date on July 10 regarding football and fall soccer. Another survey will be sent out two weeks later with a due date on July 24 for badminton, swimming & diving, girls volleyball, golf and cross country. The surveys will be conducted in this timeline as practice for football and fall soccer begins before the other fall sports."

In the statement, the AIA Crisis Management Committee, a group composed of AIA staff, Executive Board members and representatives from all conferences, will meet the Monday following both deadlines to evaluate survey responses in order to properly plan for a fall season.

"Schools will not be locked into any answers that they provide on these surveys," the statement read. "They are merely tools to help in the process."

## BOB FEIST TEAM ROPING RESULTS

**GUTHRIE, Okla.** — The results of the 43rd Annual Bob Feist Invitational Week held June 20-24 are as follows.

### BFI — THE FEIST — AVERAGE

1. Kal Fuller/Reagan Ward, 46.89, \$150,000/\$75,000 split.
2. Pace Freed/Cole Wilson, 46.96, \$100,000/\$50,000 split.
3. Paul D. Tierney/Matt Kasner, 49.46, \$74,000/\$37,000 split.
4. Andrew Ward/Buddy Hawkins, 49.92, \$54,000/\$27,000 split.
5. Tyler Wade/Billie Jack Saebens, 50.67, \$41,000/\$20,500 split.
6. Casey Hicks/Steve Orth, 50.79, \$30,000/\$15,000 split.
7. Chris Francis/Cade Passig, 51.37, \$24,000/\$12,000 split.
8. Matt Sherwood/Trey Yates, 51.63, \$16,000/\$8,000 split.
9. Cody Snow/Junior Nogueira, 52.47, \$14,000/\$7,000 split.
10. Derrick Begay/Ty Romo, 52.66, \$13,000/\$6,500 split.
11. Riley S. Minor/Brady J. Minor, 54.07, \$12,000/\$6,000 split.
12. Trey Blackmore/Kory Bramwell, 61.16, \$11,000/\$5,500 split.
13. Tate Kirchenschlager/Ross Ashford, 41.16, \$10,000/\$5,000 split.
14. Lane Ivy/Dillon Wingered, 41.39, \$9,500/\$4,750 split.
15. JR Dees/Cody Cowden, 44.87, \$9,500/\$4,750 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 1

1. Cody Snow/Junior Nogueira, 7.04, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.
2. Austin Crist/TJ Watts, 7.1, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
3. Casey Hicks/Steve Orth, 7.24, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
4. Colby Lovell/Paul Eaves, 7.24, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 2

1. Justin Johnson/Cole Curry, 5.85, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.
2. Aaron Macy/Jason Johe, 5.95, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
3. Rhen Richard/Jeremy Buhler, 6.09, \$4,000/\$2,000 split.
4. Wyatt Imus/Joseph Harrison, 6.6, \$2,000/\$1,000 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 3

1. Brooks Dahozy/Brandon Bates, 5.3, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.
2. Cole Morgan/Jett Hillman, 5.95, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
3. Colby Lovell/Paul Eaves, 6.06, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
4. Riley S. Minor/Brady J. Minor, 6.08, \$2,000/\$1,000 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 4

1. Cory Clark/Wyatt Cox, 4.65, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.
  2. Clay B. Tryan/Jake Long, 5.24, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
  3. Clay Smith/Jade Corkill, 5.31, \$4,000/\$2,000 split.
  4. Dustin Egusquiza/Travis L. Graves, 5.58, \$2,000/\$1,000 split.
- Fast Time Round 5
1. Cory Kidd V/Clay Futrell, 5.15, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.
  2. Clay Smith/Jade Corkill, 5.67, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
  3. Riley S. Minor/Brady J. Minor, 5.83, \$4,000/\$2,000 split.
  4. Jake Barnes/Rich Skelton, 5.85, \$2,000/\$1,000 split.

### SHORT GO FT

1. Kal Fuller/Reagan Ward, 6.04, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
2. Chris Francis/Cade Passig, 6.33, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Casey Hicks/Steve Orth, 7.11, \$2,000/\$1,000 split.
4. Andrew Ward/Buddy Hawkins, 7.13, \$1,000/\$500 split.

### HOOEY JR. BFI CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN — AVERAGE

1. Jordan Lovins/Chase McGuire, 43.47, \$20,000/\$10,000 split.
2. Chase Sandstrom/Jordan Lovins, 45.67, \$10,000/\$5,000 split.
3. Mason Appleton/Clay Clayman, 47.6, \$7,500/\$3,750 split.
4. Gavin Hershberger/Denton Dunning, 50.69, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
5. Mason Appleton/Landen Glenn, 51.64, \$4,000/\$2,000 split.
6. Jayse Tettenhorst/Kaden Proffil, 52.05, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
7. Jace Thorstenson/Caleb Green, 52.93, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 1

1. Gavin Hershberger/Denton Dunning, 6.79, \$2,400/\$1,200 split.
2. Garrett Hershberger/Cashton Weidenbener, \$1,200/\$600 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 2

1. Trey Begay/Cody Lansing, 5.86, \$2,400/\$1,200 split.
2. Cash Duty/JR Gonzalez, 6.5, \$600/\$300 split.
3. Jordan Lovins/Chase McGuire, 6.5, \$600/\$300 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 3

1. Rowdy K. Jones/Kyle Thomas, 5.32, \$2,400/\$1,200 split.
2. Chase Sandstrom/Jordan Lovins, 6.31, \$1,200/\$600 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 4

1. Rowdy K. Jones/Cooper Freeman, 5.15, \$2,400/\$1,200 split.
2. Maverik Franks/Zane Compton, 6.2, \$1,200/\$600 split.

### FAST TIME SGO

1. Rance Winters/Trigger Hargrove, 7.38, \$2,400/\$1,200 split.

### HOOEY JR. BFI CHAMPIONSHIP 10.5 — AVERAGE

1. Gavin Hershberger/Denton Dunning, 29.85, \$16,250/\$8,125 split.
2. Chase Sandstrom/Cade Sandstrom, 33.19, \$11,330/\$5,665.
3. Cooper Young/Shye Pate, 40.78, \$8,380/\$4,190.
4. Luke Gee/Garrett Hershberger, 41.23, \$5,900/\$2,950.
5. Quincy Reeves/Zane Compton, 42.84, \$4,420/\$2,210.
6. Luke Dubois/Ty Aymond, 47.44, \$3,000/\$1,500.

### FAST TIME ROUND 1

1. Gavin Hershberger/Denton Dunning, 6.42, \$2,100/\$1,050.
2. Bladen J. A. Reno/Regan Wheatley, 7.11, \$1,400/\$700.
3. Luke Gee/Garrett Hershberger, 7.36, \$700/\$350.

### FAST TIME ROUND 2

1. Gavin Hershberger/Garrett Hershberger, 6.93, \$2,100/\$1,050.
2. Landon Cook/George Chambers, 6.99, \$1,400/\$700.
3. Rance Winters/Gavin Cardoza, 7.52, \$700/\$350.

### FAST TIME ROUND 3

1. Cooper Browne/Jayden Cisneros, 6.56, \$2,100/\$1,050.
2. Trey Hughes/Hayden Sanders, 6.92, \$1,400/\$700.
3. Luke Dubois/Ty Aymond, 7.16, \$700/\$350.

### FAST TIME SGO

1. Tristin Brooks/Tyler Tryan, 7.04, \$1,400/\$700.

### 11.5 WRANGLER NATIONAL PATRIOT — AVERAGE

1. Barry Berg/Dustin W. Noblitt, 32.54, \$100,000/\$50,000 split.
2. Dwight Arnold/Chris Glover, 38.7, \$50,000/\$25,000 split.
3. Hannah White/Bryan Caldwell, 38.77, \$30,000/\$15,000 split.
4. Gary Kiehne/Shawn Palmer, 38.86, \$18,000/\$9,000 split.
5. Dylan White/Roberto Jr. Torres, 41.4, \$14,000/\$7,000 split.
6. Justin Lankford/Brandon Taylor, 43.35, \$12,000/\$6,000 split.
7. Griffin Scarlett/Ken Matheson, 45.89, \$10,600/\$5,300 split.
8. Clint Threadgill/Louie Molina Jr., 46.74, \$9,500/\$4,750 split.
9. Tyler Regensberg/Joaquin Huntington, 47.25, \$8,500/\$4,250 split.
10. Matt Klingeman/Travis H. Klingeman, 47.76, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.

### CONSOLATION AVERAGE

1. Raymond Kerr/Spencer Love, 23.15, \$7,500/\$3,750 split.
2. Dennis Engelmann/Scube Waggoner, 23.62, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
3. Teddy Kreger/Skip Stansbury, 23.97, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 1

1. Heath Crofford/Andy Baker, 7.3, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
2. Justin Lankford/Brandon Taylor, 7.35, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
3. Lee Newman/Keith Coleman, 7.43, \$1,500/\$750 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 2

1. Colter LaRue/David Walker, 6.92, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
2. Tyler Thompson/Chad Davis, 7.18, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
3. TJ Good/Alan Chappell, 6.47, \$1,500/\$750 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 3

1. Coby LittleSoldier/Steve Harrison, 5.95, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
2. Wade Woodbury/Kade Elkins, 6.45, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
3. TJ Good/Alan Chappell, 6.47, \$1,500/\$750 split.

### FAST TIME SGO

1. Jimmy Longino/Danny Watson, 10.29, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Scot Wheatley/Jeremy L. Mallette, 14.16, \$1,500/\$750 split.

### 12.5 HIGH DESERT SHOWDOWN — AVERAGE

1. Hannah White/Mike White, 34.09, \$100,000/\$50,000 split.
2. Kade Elkins/Logan Wengert, 35.29, \$70,000/\$35,000 split.
3. Shawnee Sherwood/Clay Elkington,

- 35.52, \$50,000/\$25,000 split.
4. Kylen Winn/Wyatt Hershberger, 35.54, \$41,000/\$20,500 split.
5. Thomas Braman/Tracy Estep, 36.6, \$33,500/\$16,750 split.
6. Abby Medlin/Murt Stewart, 37.78, \$25,000/\$12,500 split.
7. Craig Moore/Luke Groth, 38.02, \$22,750/\$11,375 split.
8. Clay Saffell/Steve Mauldin, 38.61, \$18,000/\$9,000 split.
9. Ken Matheson/Tony D. Graham, 38.64, \$15,000/\$7,500 split.
10. Lee Hammonds/Gary Hughes, 38.74, \$10,000/\$5,000 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 1

1. Wade Woodbury/Logan Wengert, 6.68, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Danny Miller/Chris Pomeroy, 6.88, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Chance Reppond/Chad E. Martin, 6.97, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 2

1. Derek Luster/Troy Kitchener, 5.84, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Derek Luster/Blake Larmon, 5.93, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Mike Carrell/Scooter Wilson, 5.99, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

### FAST TIME SGO

1. Danny Miller/Shawn Vargas, 6.93, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Coby LittleSoldier/Samuel Luchsinger, 7.16, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Clay Johnson/Slick Robison, 7.24, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

### CACTUS 9.5 OVER 40 — AVERAGE

1. Russ Cook/Ricky Oliver, 38.82, \$50,000/\$25,000 split.
2. Craig Moore/Jay Anthony, 42.9, \$30,000/\$15,000 split.
3. Bobby Payne/Brad Thrash, 45.98, \$20,000/\$10,000 split.
4. Gaylon Robinson/Mike Goad, 47.9, \$15,000/\$7,500 split.
5. Tish Luke/John Coltharp, 50.06, \$10,000/\$5,000 split.
6. Justin Turner/Nelson Taylor, 50.9, \$7,000/\$3,500 split.
7. Jeremy Olsen/Sam Stephens, 51.68, \$6,500/\$3,250 split.
8. Juan Gonzalez/Greg R. Cook, 52.64, \$6,500/\$3,250 split.
9. Wayne Benefield/Blake Williamson, 60.07, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
10. Allen Stinnett/Travis Sargent, 32.58, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
11. Larry L. Rice/Kasey Willis, 35.41, \$4,000/\$2,000 split.
12. E.J. Williams/Skip Morton, 37.51, \$4,000/\$2,000 split.
13. Tres Moore/Brandon Smith, 40.54, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
14. Kim McCracken/Randy McCracken, 42.41, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
15. Tish Luke/Jason O'Brien, 43.67,

### FAST TIME ROUND 1

1. Russ Cook/Ricky Oliver, 7.82, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Keith Burd/Dexter Scanlan, 8.42, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Jack Morris/Jason O'Brien, 8.76, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 2

1. Casey Lambert/Kasey Willis, 6.47, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Kent Youngblood/Tripp Townsend, 7.14, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Belo Wiley/Sal Dominguez, 7.76, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

### 10.5 OVER 40 — AVERAGE

1. Mark Collins/Max Vincent, 35.54, \$58,000/\$29,000 split.
2. GR Carter Jr./Joe Waldman, 36.89, \$40,000/\$20,000 split.
3. Steve A. Taylor/Russell Hild, 41.15, \$30,000/\$15,000 split.
4. Tish Luke/Scott Seiler, 41.31, \$20,000/\$10,000 split.
5. David James/Jody Higgins, 42.27, \$15,000/\$7,500 split.
6. David Schiel/Jason Grimm, 45.83, \$10,000/\$5,000 split.
7. Lynndel Walters/Jerry Imhoff, 46.24, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.
8. Richard Wade Jones/Kade Elkins, 47.7, \$8,000/\$4,000 split.
9. Cameron Southard/Jon Carpenter, 49.84, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
10. Troy Applegate/Kelly Tuley, 51.29, \$6,000/\$3,000 split.
11. Craig Moore/Danny Watson, 51.77, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.
12. Travis Regensberg/Justin Ketcham, 51.93, \$5,000/\$2,500 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 1

1. Mark Collins/Max Vincent, 7.74, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Steve A. Taylor/Russell Hild, 8.36, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Tres Moore/Brandon Smith, 8.82, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

### FAST TIME ROUND 2

1. Ronnie Hill/Jason Miller, 7.08, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Hannah White/Bryan Caldwell, 7.39, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Marty Lindner/Ken Plocek, 7.4, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

### FAST TIME SGO

1. Ryan Morrow/Alan Chappell, 8.07, \$3,500/\$1,750 split.
2. Connie L. Harris/Rob J. Lauer, 10.71, \$3,000/\$1,500 split.
3. Jim Brecheisen/Joaquin Huntington, 13.57, \$2,500/\$1,250 split.

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Hannah Tecumseh hits the ball in a game last year on her high school team at Lakeview High School in Battle Creek, Michigan. Tecumseh, a Diné, will play for the Ferris State University women's volleyball team in the fall.

KEYWORD

FROM PAGE 1

“They have a great volleyball program,” she said. “The coaches are really nice, they really focus on technique and they focus on team bonding, which is really nice.” Last season, Ferris’s Lady Bulldogs went 25-6 overall, winning the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with a 14-2 record. “I’m super excited and I can’t wait to see all of my teammates because I know I have created a lot of bonds,” she said, noting that she’s been in contact with her coaches and teammates through Zoom. “With the coronavirus I know there are a lot of unpredictable things happening right now,” she said. “I’m hoping that we’ll

have a chance to have a season.” Hannah said she plans to study optometry, a field that piqued her interest due to the yearly visits she has with her eye doctor. “It’s kind of ironic because I have really bad eyes,” she said. “I feel like I’ve been going to the eye doctor a lot so it’s kind of inspiring. It’s something I want to do so that I can help others.” Hannah said the optometry program at FSU is one of the best in the country and she hopes to study abroad while helping kids in developing countries get prescriptions for eyeglasses. “It’s a really good school,” she said. Hannah said her mother and aunt, Christie Cooke, introduced her to volleyball at an early age. Both siblings played collegiately with Carly playing four years at Long Island University while her mother played

one year at Haskell. The Cooke sisters started a Starling Volleyball Club in Hoyt, Kansas with Hannah and older sister Rose playing on the team. “Being in a rural community it fit the profile for us to have a club volleyball team and the Starlings was willing to help sponsor us,” Melissa said. “That kind of got the ball rolling for Hannah and her older sister and it just resonated from there.” In 2015, the Tecumseh family relocated to Battle Creek, Michigan for job opportunities, a move that benefitted the two girls. “The one thing we really liked about Battle Creek was that we moved to a really good volleyball community,” Melissa said. “They took volleyball serious like the way we did. It meshed really well with us.” According to Melissa, her older daughter, Rose, was also

a standout volleyball player but of the two Hannah “had a little bit more passion” for the sport. “Sometimes you have kids that take sports to the extreme and that’s Hannah,” she said. “Hannah really loved it and Rose just liked it.” With a desire to play collegiately, Hannah took the necessary steps to get noticed with the help from her parents. “There are plenty of apps out there to help in the recruiting process,” Melissa said. “With Hannah we were really aggressive in putting her name out there. We went to a lot of tournaments and we filmed her. “Hannah was real forthcoming,” she said. “She reached out to all the coaches by sending them emails and videos.” For club ball, Hannah played for the USA Michigan Club, one of the state’s premiere clubs. The director of the club, Rob Buck, coached the men’s volleyball team at Ball State Univer-



Hannah Tecumseh, who has roots in the Window Rock area, signed her letter of intent to play for the Ferris State University women's volleyball team.

sity. In high school, Hannah played for Heather Sawyer, a former member of the Canadian Olympic team. “Having all those influences has really helped her,” Melissa said. “For her to soak it in and take their teachings has made her a more well-rounded volleyball player.” Hannah agreed. “All the coaches that I had are professionals,” she said. “They pay attention to details and they make sure everything

is done correctly. They really pushed me to be the best player that I can be.” And although she is going to be two hours away, Hannah said she’s having mixed feelings about moving away. “I’m excited for college because I can finally, like, do things on my own,” she said, “but then again it’s kind of nerve-wracking because it’s going to be the first time I’ve ever been alone, without my parents.”

STOLEN

FROM PAGE 1

younger sister Kassidy. “We were going to hit the road,” Dennison said, adding that they intended to compete in a number of qualifying events for RDF-TV’s The American as well as the Women’s Professional Rodeo Association and the Indian National Finals Rodeo. “It’s hard to do this interview because we only competed in three rodeos,” she said. “I feel really defeated because we didn’t get a chance to rodeo. I honestly felt like that this year was going to be special. It’s the most prepared that I have every been in the sense of horsepower and abilities.” To earn her INFR qualification, Dennison finished fourth at last fall’s San Carlos Apache Veterans Fair & Rodeo, coupled with her mixed results at the two-day O’odham Tash Rodeo in Casa Grande in early February. In her first run in Casa Grande, Dennison said she drew a good calf but she broke out. “I would have placed either second or third but I was too aggressive with my start,” she said. Nevertheless, the 2002 INFR world champion bounced back with an electrifying 2.69 run in the next round, which earned her a two-way tie for first-place with Arianna Jones.



Devyn Dennison attempts to maneuver her way around the barrel at a recent rodeo. The two-event cowgirl earned an Indian National Finals Rodeo qualification in the breakaway event after claiming the year-end title in the Southwest Indian Rodeo Association.

At that rodeo, Dennison had switched out horses as she used her sister’s horse, Tatiana, instead of her trusted palomino,

Baby Piggy. “I was still trying to get used to that mare,” she said of Tatiana. “She has a different style

and she’s super fast.” Dennison felt that she didn’t really key in with her start in the first rodeo but on the follow-

ing day she scored much better. Dennison said she had planned on using Tatiana for the rest of the season as the two

sisters were going to haul one breakaway horse to make room for their barrel horses. “We were invested to do both events but a lot of things have happened since our last rodeo in Casa Grande,” she said. “I feel real bad for all the contestants. As competitors, we’re so used to grinding and grinding but with this coronavirus we’re all taking a timeout. “This virus is bigger than all of us,” she added. “It’s bigger than rodeo and it’s really affected us, especially on the Navajo Nation. I just hope everybody stays safe.” Dennison said she feels blessed to earn her INFR qualification as she missed last year’s event by half a point in the SWIRA region. “It was a hard pill to swallow but it was my undoing,” she said. “I had grinded really hard to get there but I ended up missing it. I thought I had made it but it was my own fault for not double-checking my points in the standings.” In the regional finals last year, Dennison placed once during the two go-round event. “I didn’t get enough points to make it,” she said. “It was the worst feeling in the world because I thought that I already had a qualified.” Dennison said it’s been about four years since she’s been to the INFR as breakaway qualifier. As for barrels, it’s a bit longer than that. “It’s been a while since I’ve qualified,” she said. “Because of what happened to me last year I wanted to be more consistent and on top of my game.”



# Crownpoint program gets COVID relief grant

BY CINDY YURTH  
TSEYI' BUREAU

**WINDOW ROCK** — In 2016, while she was still an undergrad at Julliard, Ariel Horowitz got a strange phone call from her mother, a curriculum consultant for Navajo Technical University.

It was less a request than an order.

“She said, ‘You’re going to go to a place called Crownpoint, New Mexico, and you’re going to play music with some kids,’” Horowitz recalled.

Amy Horowitz not being a person to be trifled with, her daughter dutifully packed her bags.

NTU, it turned out, was concerned about the dearth of arts education opportunities for youth in the area, so Amy Horowitz had volunteered her violinist daughter to experiment with a summer music camp for kids.

“I brought a buddy of mine,” Ariel recalled. “We didn’t have a clue what we were doing. We worked for five days with seven kids. We sat in a hogan and played a lot of games and made music together. It was a humble, lovely exchange between us and the students.”

Ariel went back to her studies thinking she had had a fun cross-cultural adventure, perhaps had made a contribution, and that was the end of it.

Then toward the end of the school year, NTU called.

“They said, ‘You’re coming out again this summer, right?’” Ariel recalled. She hadn’t planned on it, but ...

“Yeah, sure,” she said.

That was the start of the Heartbeat Music Project, which through summer camps, winter workshops and funding private lessons in between, has taught dozens of Diné youth to play an instrument — but more importantly, “to thrive and gain confidence in themselves, their abilities, and their local and global potential,” according to its website.

Under the executive direction of Sharon Nelson, who is also on the faculty of NTU’s Diné Studies department, the students also get a dose of Diné cultural education every day.

“It’s not expressly related to music,” Ariel admitted, “but the kids love it and it’s part of a holistic model of education we definitely subscribe to. Plus, I get to be blown away every day learning something new about Navajos.”

The Heartbeat faculty includes such notable Diné musicians as Delbert Anderson and Renata Yazzie, and kids can choose from a variety of instruments and genres. There’s never a charge; NTU provides the campus, dorms and meals, and Roadwork, Inc. — a nonprofit with the mission of building multi-racial coalitions through women’s culture — funds a lot of the other stuff, along with private donations.

This year, Heartbeat was busily preparing for its largest camp ever — 60 children had signed up! — when COVID-19 reared its ugly head. The camp was indefinitely postponed.

Then Ariel, the program’s artistic director, started thinking the program was in a perfect position to respond to the pandemic. It had contacts in the community, and contacts with donors on the East Coast. And she had time.

“All my concerts were canceled,” said the professional violinist. “My calendar looked like a polar bear in a blizzard.”

Meanwhile, the Lewis Prize for music, which supports innovative youth music programs in underserved areas, had launched its own COVID relief grant program.

“Our team is spread out all over the country, so we were feeling the shutdown in mid-March,” said Dalouge Smith, the Lewis Prize’s CEO. “We started wondering, what is the field of creative youth development doing to address the pandemic? What we found was that there were a large number of organizations that were immediately pivoting to COVID relief.”

The Lewis Prize posted a request for proposals for grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and got 99 applications, which they whittled down to 32. Heartbeat was the only recipient in the Four Corners.

Smith said the grant readers, who included children and young adults, were impressed with Heartbeat’s knowledge of its community and the efforts it was already undertaking.

“The staff members had already donated their stipends to the Navajo-Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund,” he noted. “These are artists who are already losing income from not being able to perform in public.”

In addition, the staff had undertaken a letter-writing campaign to let their students know they were thinking of them and encouraging them to keep playing their instruments.

“By writing actual letters, they were recognizing the inconsistent availability of technology on the reservation,” Smith said. “This shows a real sensitivity to the circumstances in their community.”

Ariel said the \$25,000 grant will make a huge difference to a tiny organization like Heartbeat. The staff has not yet decided how to spend the grant.

“Some of it will probably go to emergency items for the community,” she said, “but I’d also like to help the students to produce some virtual mini-concerts they can use for fundraising or just to lift people’s spirits.”

Musicians, she said, are often seen by society as non-essential folks who are nice to have around but not necessarily driving forces in their community. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

“Because I have this ability to speak this universal language of music, I can create relationships with people all over the world and mobilize those relationships to address issues,” she said. “I think our students are starting to view their own musicianship in the same way.”



Amaya Anderson receives feedback on her oboe technique during a previous Heartbeat Music Project summer camp. The camp was canceled this year due to COVID-19.

# A HEART FOR KIDS AND MUSIC



Participants and faculty in Heartbeat Music Project's 2018 winter workshop pose together.



Aspyen Kaskalla practices her violin at a previous Heartbeat Music Project summer camp.



COURTESY PHOTO | NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY



ABOVE: A violin lesson at a previous Heartbeat Music Project summer camp.

LEFT: Diné jazz musician Delbert Anderson gives a piano lesson at a previous Heartbeat Music Project summer camp.

COURTESY PHOTO | NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY



CAPITAL BRIEFS

Kaibeto road project completed; Jeddito sees progress

**TSE BONITO, Ariz.** – The Navajo Division of Transportation recently completed the first two phases of the Navajo Route 9102 Road Improvement Project in Jeddito, Arizona, moving the project closer to a mid-July completion date.

N9102, known as Skunk Springs Road, lies approximately three miles southwest of the Jeddito Chapter House on the south side of State Route 264.

This project is being carried out in three phases. In January, Navajo DOT started Phase I, which included sight distance issues, reconditioning and reshaping the road.

Navajo DOT Program Supervisor for Phase I Roscoe Tsosie and his crew reconditioned the road three miles south of 264. An excavator was used to break down sandstone walls to widen the road's surface.

The scope of work for Phase I included two miles of dirt road.

In Phase II, Navajo-owned CB Emulsions, from Prewitt, New Mexico, was contracted for one mile of dirt road prep, drainage and gravel further south of the Phase I and closer to Jeddito Wash.

Navajo DOT Project Manager Marlinda Littleman said the improvements in Phase II addressed roadway safety and drainage.

CB Emulsions completed Phase II on Friday, June 12.

The entire project is overseen by Navajo DOT Road Department Manager Joseph Peterman.

For Phase III, Navajo DOT contracted Desert Mountain Corporation from Kirtland, New Mexico, for soil stabilization in three locations.

Navajo DOT has scheduled completion of Phase III by July 10.

Navajo DOT thanks the president's office, Navajo Nation Council and the work of all Navajo DOT Road Department staff, CB Emulsions and Desert Mountain Corporation.

On June 11, NDOT conducted a final inspection of the Navajo Route 21 paving project in Kaibeto, Arizona, including more than 3.5 miles of paving of Navajo Routes 21, 6331 and 6330.

The project, at a cost of \$15.6 million of Federal Highway Administration funds, included a roundabout south of the Kaibeto Market, paving of the Kaibeto Chapter House parking lot and bridge construction.

Buu Nygren, chief commercial officer for Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, said the project was an excellent example of two prominent Navajo Nation entities, Navajo DOT and NECA, working together for the people of Kaibeto.

"The project was finished on time with the help of all partners involved including BIA DOT and Dibble Engineering. We worked as one and delivered a beautiful project," Nygren said.

Kaibeto Chapter President Franklin Fowler said he was grateful to attend the final inspection and the roundabout, the lighting and the signs all improve the flow of traffic and safety in Kaibeto.

President Jonathan Nez said, "This area is a corridor for tourism where our Nation facilitates transportation from Page to Monument Valley and onward to Canyon De Chelly. We want our Navajo people to have safe roads and additionally we want to facilitate the cycling of tourism dollars into our communities."

Census restarts 2020 count; fewer than 1% of Navajos respond

The U.S. Census Bureau restarted the 2020 Census Update Leave Operation on the Navajo Nation on June 11. Census workers have resumed deliveries of questionnaires to housing



COURTESY PHOTO | NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

An NDOT crew crushes a rock wall to accommodate improvements of the Skunk Springs Road, Navajo Route 9102, in Jeddito, Ariz. The project should be finished mid-July.

units across the reservation.

The U.S. Census Bureau performs a census, an official count, of all people in the country every 10 years. The results of the Census are used by government agencies and private organizations to determine funding and investment opportunities for the next decade.

The Census also provides information on age, household size and more that is used by policymakers to make important decisions.

The Update Leave Operation is a step to ensure every housing unit has the information to properly respond to the Census.

In particular, Navajo leaders stress the importance of answering question No. 9 on the questionnaire, which asks for individual tribal affiliation. Those identifying as a member of the Navajo Nation are encouraged to respond with the word "Navajo."

Anyone of mixed-race heritage is encouraged to use as much space as they need to list each tribal or racial affiliation.

"Our main priority is to get every Navajo person counted by responding to the 2020 Census questionnaire as soon as they receive the information," said Speaker Seth Damon.

As of June 10, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the national self-response rate, which is the percentage of people across the entire country that have answered the 2020 Census questionnaire, averaged 60.8 percent. However, the self-response rate for the Navajo Nation was 0.9 percent.

Information: 2020census.gov

Nez praises judge's ruling, doesn't mention delay in Navajo spending plan

While President Jonathan Nez applauded U.S. District Court Judge Amit Mehta's June 15 ruling ordering the final distribution of the remaining \$679 million in federal CARES Act funding to tribes, a tug of war continues between the legislative and executive branches over the first CARES payment received on May 6.

Judge Mehta ruled that the U.S. Treasury Department's withholding of CARES Act funding to help tribes in the fight against COVID-19 is unreasonable and no longer acceptable.

Congress approved the CARES Act on March 27, which included \$8 billion for tribes. Congress directed the Trea-

sury Department to distribute the funds within 30 days, or by April 26.

More than 54 days have passed, putting tribes at a greater disadvantage in the fight against the virus, the president's office said in a Tuesday press release.

However, the release doesn't say anything about the 50 days since the Nation received its first payment.

Nez line-item vetoed the Council's first plan to spend the \$600 million, while pushing his own. Last week, a possible merger of the two plans was reported.

The Nation faces a deadline of Dec. 31 to spend the \$600 million.

"We are thankful that the United States government and the U.S. Treasury Department honored its federal trust responsibility and distributed more than \$600 million to the Navajo Nation to help fight COVID-19," Nez said.

However, the delays in CARES Act funding hindered the Navajo Nation, the release states, and now, 81 days after the Congress appropriated the funds, Judge Mehta recognized the U.S. Treasury Department's responsibility and obligation to distribute the money.

Nez is working with the Navajo Nation Council on a spending plan for the \$600 million in CARES Act funding. Discussions include immediately providing \$50 million to protect frontline workers with PPEs and much needed resources to protect families and communities.

The discussion includes more than \$550 million for water and utilities infrastructure, telecommunications, and other critical projects and initiatives to fight COVID-19.

Heinrich questions CDC over data requested by tribes

**WASHINGTON** – Last Friday U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., questioned the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after recent news reports said that the federal government had turned down tribal epidemiologists' requests for data showing how the coronavirus is spreading in their communities.

In a letter to CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield, Heinrich noted that withholding life-saving data widens the health



COURTESY PHOTO | NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

A Navajo Department of Transportation employee grades Navajo Route 9102, the Skunk Springs Road, in Jeddito, Ariz., recently.

disparities that are already running rampant in areas that are ill-equipped to contain the spread and the outcomes of this pandemic.

The data was requested by 12 tribal epidemiology centers over the last month, including the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Epidemiology Center.

"I urge you to work with tribal epidemiologists around the country and to immediately share the data they are requesting so that they have the same chance as states to fight against COVID-19," Heinrich said.

Navajo Gaming surveys customers

The Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, which has a tentative reopening date of July 6 for its four casinos, sent out a survey to cardholders and customers asking about concerns and suggestions.

To a question asking about checking the temperature of customers, 43% said they would feel safer.

Asked about the use of masks, 60% said they would wear one in the casinos.

A high percentage – 89% – said they would like Navajo Gaming to focus on heightened sanitation standards with regu-

lar cleaning.

As a result of the survey, Navajo Gaming stated that it will be mandatory for customers and employees to wear masks when the casinos reopen.

Navajo Gaming has hired AB Healthcare to work with the staff to help decrease the spread of the virus for both staff and visitors at their casino and office locations.

Brian Parrish, interim CEO of Navajo Gaming, said, "Navajo Gaming will take every feasible measure to keep our guests safe including those suggested through our surveys."

Support, protect elders, Crotty says

Navajo Nation citizens should observe Older Americans Month during June, said Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove/Toadlena-Two Grey Hills/Red Valley/Tsé'ahnáozt'i'i/Sheepsprings/Beclabito/Gadiiahi-To'Koi).

In April, President Trump signed a proclamation that recognized May as Older Americans Month and designated June 15 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

In a bipartisan effort, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act included funding for nursing home inspections, personal protective

equipment, or PPE, for more than 15,000 nursing homes and expanded testing around the country through private-public partnerships.

Crotty said, "During these challenging times, I want to always call for the safety and support of our Navajo elders and protection can mean many things – sheltering in place, food and water deliveries, ensuring they have access to their medications, and that their livestock are cared for. However, we also need to protect our elders from violence on all fronts."

Crotty said elder entrepreneurs who make and sell artwork, such as Annette Bilagody, who makes beaded jewelry, also need support.

"Check on the grandparents in your communities, ask what they need, and see if there is anything that would help make their day better," she said.

Crotty also said the pandemic has amplified several issues throughout Indian Country and created challenges for tribes in terms of violence.

Recently, the United Nations reported that domestic and sexual violence has increased during the pandemic as an unintended consequence of shelter-in-place orders and families self-quarantining to protect themselves.

REGION BRIEFS

3 wildfires rank in Ariz.'s top 10

**FLAGSTIFF** – A dozen wildfires have torched nearly 400,000 acres in Arizona and have left much of the state, particularly the southeastern portion, in ruins.

Nearly half of that acreage has come from the Bush Fire blazing in the Tonto National Forest, just north of Phoenix.

As of Monday morning, the still-young 2020 wildfire season has already burned more Arizona land than all but two years since 2002.

Three current wildfires in the state all rank in the top

10 for largest blazes in Arizona history, marking the first time since 2011 that multiple, historic-sized fires have burnt simultaneously.

Dave Ramirez, South Zone fire management officer, said, "It has just been a monster of a season for us and extremely busy."

Tribes' casinos reopen with precautions

**ALBUQUERQUE** – Multiple tribal casinos in New Mexico have reopened despite recommendations from Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham to remain closed to limit the

spread of COVID-19.

Isleta Casino & Resort in Albuquerque, Ohkay Hotel Casino in Ohkay Owingeh and Taos Mountain Casino in Taos all have reopened with coronavirus-related precautions.

"All casinos are strongly, unequivocally encouraged to remain closed at this time, just like other entertainment facilities, due to the risk of COVID-19 spread," governor's office spokeswoman, Nora Meyers Sackett, said Tuesday. "Any entity opening a casino right now is exposing patrons and the community in which it is situated to enormous risk of infection and spread."

Tribal casinos are controlled by sovereign nations, so the state cannot prohibit them from reopening.

The Navajo Nation's four casinos remain closed with a tentative reopening date of July 5.

Indigenous Peoples' Caucus calls for abolishing Columbus Day

**PHOENIX** – Ahead of President Trump's visit to Arizona on Tuesday, the Arizona Legislature's Indigenous People's Caucus called for Columbus Day to be abolished and replaced with Indigenous People's Day in

Arizona and nationwide.

"Today as President Trump brings his violent and divisive rhetoric to Arizona, the Indigenous People's Caucus is calling for an end to the violent and divisive legacy of Christopher Columbus in our state and our country," the caucus said in a press release.

"The legacy of Columbus is one of violence and genocide for Indigenous people across the world. Having a state and federal holiday in honor of him is shameful and aggravates memories of deep, generational pain for Native Americans.

"We are in a moment of

historic social upheaval and demands for justice. Just as we see the Black Lives Matter movement toppling monuments to the Confederacy, it is also time to topple the monument to Christopher Columbus, and replace October 12th as Indigenous People's Day in Arizona and the United States."

The Indigenous People's Caucus includes Sen. Sally Ann Gonzales, D-Tucson, Rep. Arlando Teller, D-Chinle, Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Cameron, Sen. Victoria Steele, D-Tucson, Rep. Jennifer Jermaine, D-Chandler, and Rep. Myron Tsosie, D-Chinle.



# U of U grad persevered, now sets sights on grad school

BY PAULY DENETCLAW  
NAVAJO TIMES

**MONUMENT VALLEY, Utah** — Shaniah Chee was sitting in her mother's truck outside Monument Valley High School, Utah, where she graduated from four years earlier, because she was trying to connect to wi-fi. The wi-fi at her home wasn't strong enough to load the video they were trying to watch.

Chee and her mother, Christine Rock, were trying to watch the University of Utah's 2020 virtual graduation, which Chee was a part of. The graduation where she was recognized as one of the "Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Awardees."

She also received the Larry H. and Gail Miller Enrichment scholarship that's awarded to five students every year.

"I was struggling through my freshman year," Chee remembered as tears fell down her face. "I really wanted to come home."

But she would put on her running shoes and head to the Wasatch Mountains near her campus and pray to the Holy Ones.

"They're just powerful, those mountains," she said. "I was like, 'I'm not alone.' The Holy Ones, they're watching me. And when I would run out, I would say a few prayers and blessings and thankful for how I got here today."

Chee is a first-generation college graduate and it's all thanks to her mother and grandparents who never stopped encouraging her to follow her academic dreams.

She recently lost her paternal grandfather who was one of her biggest supporters.

"Just to imagine him not being there and not having my family there to celebrate with me, it's just heart-breaking," Chee said. "Then having to wait until December to actually have my commencement walk across the stage to receive my diploma."

It hasn't been easy for Chee but she has persevered. It was a difficult transition for her from a rural community on the rez where her graduating class was fewer than 50 to Salt Lake City, home to over 200,000 people and a campus community of almost 25,000 students.

Despite these difficulties, she even held her university's Miss American Indian Woman 2019-20 title.

She came as a nursing major but later switched to anthropology with a minor in Native studies.

"A few weeks into my nursing



NAVAJO TIMES | RAVONELLE YAZZIE  
**Shaniah Chee of Monument Valley, Utah, was recognized as one of the "Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Awardees" from University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah this past spring. She earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology.**

classes, I was like, 'Nope, this is not for me,'" Chee said with a laugh. "I don't see myself in this position. I'm so emotional and I would cry with my patients if I were to be in that position."

"So, I decided to take anthropology," she said. "I've always been interested in the similarity of cultures and the connection that we all have with one another."

This is where her scholarship and research truly blossomed. "It was really tough my senior year," she said "I just did everything all at once, it seems, but I'm just glad it's done with and another chapter awaits. So, I'm excited for that next chapter."

Chee is going to take a gap year before continuing to get her master's degree.

"The plan is just to enjoy my year off and just take in my surroundings," she said. "Learn and appreciate what I've been through. And just to take that time. I've been in school for 16 years now."

She will spend the next year learning more about Navajo culture and language. Chee wants to learn

ceremonial Navajo songs. In the future she hopes to create a summer language and culture camp.

One used to happen annually but has since stopped. These camps were invaluable to Chee growing up.

"I made my first ring there," she said.

Every step of her growth, her mother was there to support her.

"I'm really proud of her accomplishments," Rock said. "She's always been a go-getter. She's, I think, our over-achiever in the family."

Rock said her daughter always wanted to do more in her life and this was her driving force. She didn't let friends distract her from her end goal.

"She always didn't want to be a statistic," Rock said. "I think some of the things that her friends have said and growing up in high school, she's, like, 'No, I'm gonna prove this wrong and I'm gonna be able to do this and fulfill my goals and get somewhere in life.' She did that."

Now, Chee is at her family's homestead in Monument Valley, Utah, taking care of her family's corn fields and sheep.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

**SJC plans virtual graduation FARMINGTON** – San Juan College will hold a virtual graduation ceremony for its students, as well as recognize the first graduating class of San Juan College High School.

The SJCHS students earned their high school diploma and associate's degree simultaneously.

In addition, those who have earned degrees from New Mexico Highlands University-Farmington Center and the University of New Mexico-San Juan Center will be recognized.

The ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, June 30. A live web stream of the event will be available at [www.sanjuancollege.edu](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu).

More than 1,430 San Juan College graduates are earning associates and certificates; 62 San Juan College High School graduates; as well as more than 124 graduates earning bachelor's and master's degrees from the Highlands and UNM centers.

## NTU professor's research on algae published

**CROWNPOINT** – Research by Abhishek RoyChowdhury, a Navajo Technical University environmental science and natural resources professor, on algal growth with five co-researchers was published by Elsevier, a publishing and analytics company.

"I want to involve my students in various innovative research activities and/or real-world problem solving through my courses and research projects," said RoyChowdhury, who came to NTU in November 2019.

He earned a bachelor's in biology with a focus on zoology and a master's in environmental science from the University of Calcutta in India.

He then attended Montclair State University in New Jersey to obtain his Ph.D. in environmental management.

After graduation, he went on to Stevens Institute of Technology as a postdoctoral fellow. He specializes in the fields of environmental geoscience (environmental cleanup) and sustainable energy production.

"Through Dr. RoyChowdhury's work, the environmental science students will gain appreciation for the importance of peer-reviewed, published research," explained NTU provost Colleen Bowman. "This may spark an interest in the use of research as a springboard for their own research projects to solve some of the real world environmental issues on the Navajo Nation."

NTU's bachelor's degree program in environmental science and natural resources is designed to meet the needs of tribal, state, and federal entities.

Information: [aroychowdhury@navajotech.edu](mailto:aroychowdhury@navajotech.edu).

## Diné College introduces Certified Medical Assistant program

**TSAILE, Ariz.** — Diné College is debuting a new certified medical assistant certificate program — the first of its kind ever offered on the Navajo Nation.

An introductory meeting was recently held and a June 30 application deadline is in place.

"Initially, we were planning for 20 students in our first cohort, but due to the coronavirus crisis we have reduced that number to half, for our first cohort starting August 2020," said Shazia Hakim, a Diné College microbiology professor.

Hakim is part of the CMA student selection and accreditation committees.

"Today, we need these types of courses more than ever to prepare our locally trained workforce so that they can help us fight COVID-19 using our own resources," she said.

Hakim said applications for the program continue to roll in for CMAs, whose major duties are with hospital or medical offices that demand face-to-face contact.

The CMA program is a 37-credit hour certificate course offered at Diné College's Tuba City campus. Classes take place Saturday and Sunday, followed by a 10-week field externship at the Tuba City Regional Healthcare Corporation.

Hakim holds a doctoral degree from the University of Karachi in Pakistan.

Phyllis Begay, manager at the Tuba City campus, said there is a lot of potential career growth for a CMA.

## UNITY launches virtual conference

**MESA, Ariz.** – United National Indian Youth Inc. kicked off its first-ever virtual national conference today at 2 p.m. (PT) with a general session featuring three guest presenters – U.S. Rep.s Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Sharice Davids of Kansas and award-winning Native American actor Tatanka Means.

UNITY encourages Native youth to be politically informed and active and the virtual conference aims to empower Native youth – who are the future leaders of the country, communities, and businesses – to think big and innovate.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is sponsor of the conference with support provided by Bank of America and many others.

Registration for the National UNITY Virtual Conference – which will be held today and on July 9 and July 23 – is free, and can be completed on UNITY's website.

## Rock Point celebration



NAVAJO TIMES | RAVONELLE YAZZIE  
**Rock Point Community School graduate Renee Begay wears her mask in her vehicle as she goes around the track field during her drive-through graduation on June 13.**



NAVAJO TIMES | RAVONELLE YAZZIE  
**Rock Point Community School teachers seated in the bleachers show their support for graduating seniors on June 13 in Rock Point, Ariz.**

## Piestewa scholarship given to her 2 children

**PHOENIX** — On June 6, the Unified Arizona Veterans presented the inaugural "Army Specialist Lori Ann Piestewa Veteran Family Scholarship," designated for the children of servicemen and women who were killed in action, to Spc. Piestewa's two children, Brandon Whiterock and Carla Piestewa.

Lori Ann Piestewa, Hopi, was born in Tuba City. She enlisted in the Army at age 21 and deployed to Iraq in 2002. She was killed in action on March 23, 2003, becoming the first Native American female to fall in combat on foreign soil.

Brandon is the eldest child of Lori Piestewa and is a student at Coconino Community College. He is enrolled in a transition program leading to a bachelor's degree at Northern Arizona University.

He plans to help rehabilitate veterans from war-related injuries by working for Veteran Affairs as a physical or occupational therapist.

Carla is a student at Grand Canyon University and is a biology major with an emphasis in pre-medicine.

After receiving her bachelor's, she plans to pursue a doctorate in pediatrics.

This year marks the first time the UAV has expanded its scholarship program to include the children of veterans killed in action, and chose to name the scholarship in



COURTESY PHOTO  
**The recipients of the inaugural Army Spec. Lori Ann Piestewa Veterans Family Scholarship are her children Carla Piestewa, left, and Brandon Whiterock, right, shown with their grandmother, Percy Baca Piestewa.**

honor of Spc. Piestewa's sacrifice.

The UAV presented the scholarship funds with sponsorship from The Arizona Lottery's Giving Back program.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Degree winner

**Yanibah Kayti Yazza, daughter of Bill and Verni Yazza of Waterflow, New Mexico, is a graduate of Arizona State University's class of 2020. She earned a bachelor's degree in business (law). She is a 2016 graduate of Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington and was a Chief Manuelito Scholarship winner.**



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Pursuant to Governing Board policy, equally qualified Navajo applicants will receive preference. Application, Resume, (3) letters of recommendation and

college transcripts may be mailed to:

**765 West 1st Avenue Richfield, Utah 84701 or emailed to [cworkman@richfielddorm.org](mailto:cworkman@richfielddorm.org)**

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## FIRST MESA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PO Box 750, Polacca, AZ 86042  
(928) 737-2581

## NOW HIRING! SY 2020-2021

Certified Positions  
K Teacher

Classified Positions  
Parent Liaison  
Food Service Worker  
Custodian  
Receptionist

**Closing Date: June 30, 2020**

For inquiries or employment application:  
Contact Mrs. Nillarita Tso  
Email: [nillarita.tso@bie.edu](mailto:nillarita.tso@bie.edu)  
Website: <https://fmes.bie.edu>



06/12/2020

Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority is seeking a  
**Land Surveyor Manager**

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) is seeking a **Land Surveyor Manager** for employment at its Main Office in Shiprock New Mexico. Applicants are required to have as a minimum, a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, and/or Licensure as a Land Surveyor or Registered Professional Engineer. Applicants should be computer literate, with experience in word processing and spreadsheet software, AutoCAD and Trimble. Primary duties will include working with Field Survey Crews, Estimating Department, and Office of Environmental Health and Engineering. Reviewing plans using a computerized AutoCAD program. Preparing submittals, creating and updating schedules, reviewing and sealing (stamping) right-of-way drawings, tracking survey projects for completions. Coordinating ongoing survey and plans projects. Salary based upon experience. NECA offers competitive salary and benefit packages.

Navajo Preference in Employment Act, 15 NTC, Chapter 7 applies.

Closing Date: Open Until Fill (OUF)

Send Resume to:  
Human Resource Department  
P.O. Box 969  
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420

Or bring to NECA at:  
#1 Uranium Blvd.  
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420  
**NO Phone calls please**

## SECOND MESA DAY SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

### Principal

The Principal of the school is directly responsible to the Governing Board. The Principal provides leadership in developing and maintaining the best possible educational programs and services for the students of Second Mesa Day School. Leads, guides and directs every member of the administrative, instructional, and support services department in setting and achieving the highest standards of excellence in educational programs and operating systems. Responsible for a system of supervision and evaluation for all staff designed to meet the goals of the school system. Oversees and administers the use of all facilities, property, and funds in the best interest of students and the school system.

**Qualifications:** Must possess an Arizona State K-12 Principal or Superintendent Certification; Must possess a master's degree or higher. Minimum 3 Years of experience in educational administration. Minimum of three years of successful teaching experience. Successful performance in teaching and administrative capacities of increasing responsibility. Knowledge and familiarity with the Hopi language, culture, and people is a preferred qualification.

### Teacher — Eligible for Sign-on Bonus of \$2,000.00

Responsible for providing a appropriate instructional program that supports the individual needs of children conducive to a safe and supporting environment. Plan and conduct activities for a balanced program of instruction, demonstration, and work time that provides students with opportunities to observe, question and investigate. **Qualifications:** Possess a bachelor's degree, master's degree in Elementary Education. Must possess a VALID Arizona Elementary Teaching Certificate. Knowledge and familiarity with the Hopi language, culture, and people is a preferred qualification. Must successfully complete all interviews, background checks, and fingerprint clearance requirements and submit all required employment related documents and forms.

**For more information contact Vida Jensen-Golaway at 928-497-1006 or visit our website <https://www.smds.k12.az.us/Employment>**



**VISION STATEMENT:** *Achieve Today, Lead Tomorrow*  
E. Hwy 160 Navajo Rte 59 • Post Office Box 740 • Kayenta, Arizona 86033  
Phone: (928) 697-3800 or 3802 • Fax: (928) 697-3448

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### CERTIFIED POSITIONS:

Teachers \*  
Computer Teacher/IT Network Support\*  
PE Teacher/Athletic Manager\*

#### CLASSIFIED POSITIONS:

Bus Driver  
School Nurse  
Education Technician

NOTE: All vacancies are Child Care Positions and are subject to favorable background clearances. Employment Applications are available at the Human Resource Office, (928) 697-3800, ext. 1102. CCSI complies with Navajo Employment Laws and Navajo Preferences Employment Act. **POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED.**

Updated: 05/14/2020

## PINON COMMUNITY SCHOOL, INC.

P.O. Box 159, Pinon, AZ 86510-0159 • (928) 725-3234/3250 • Fax (928) 725-3232

## Job Announcement

Updated: June 5, 2020

### NON-EXEMPT (CLASSIFIED) POSITION

1-Parent Educator  
1-Bus Driver  
1-Security Officer  
1-Custodian  
1-Medical Assistant

### EXEMPT (CERTIFIED) POSITION

Principal/Residential Supervisor

### CONTINUOUSLY OPEN

*Competitive salaries with excellent employer paid benefits packages, including 401K, Medical, Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance.*

*For more information, call the Office of Personnel at (928) 725-3250, ext. 606 or visit the school website at [www.pcswarriors.com](http://www.pcswarriors.com)*

**All Positions are subject to have favorable state, federal and local- Navajo Nation Background Check prior to applying**

**Piñon Community School, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer honoring Navajo and Indian Preference in Employment.**

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**WINSLOW RESIDENTIAL HALL, INC. (WRHI)** is looking for reliable and outgoing individuals to work with Native American students Grade 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Join our WRHI Team!** Great Benefits that include **401(K)**, Short Term Disability, **Life Insurance, Medical, Dental, Vision** plans.

POSITIONS	EMPLOYMENT
Certified Counselor	10-Month FT-Exempt
Food Service Head Cook	10-Month FT-Non-Exempt
Residential Clerk	12-Month FT-Non-Exempt

The following must be included with a WRHI Employment Application:

- Three (3) letters of recommendation (no relatives or personal friends), DATED WITHIN 6 MONTHS of the application date;
- A copy of HS diploma or GED and College Transcripts/Degree;
- Copy of valid Driver's License
- Copy of Certificate of Indian Blood (*Navajo Preference in Employment Act is applicable*);
- Federal and State background check(s);**
- Tribal/Local Background;**
- Copy of License, Certifications, and/or Credentials required for the position.

For an application or more information, please visit our website at [www.wrhiinc.org](http://www.wrhiinc.org), or visit our office at Winslow Residential Hall, Inc., 600 N. Alfred Ave., Winslow, AZ 86047

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**  
**Open until filled**

Navajo Preference Law Applicable





LEGAL NOTICES

Navajo Head Start  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
HIGH SPEED INTERNET  
SERVICES  
RE-BID NO. 20-02-2256LE  
The Navajo Head Start (NHS) invites qualified firms to submit bids for high speed internet services. NHS intends to enter into a Professional Services Contract with a responsible and qualified independent consultant to provide high speed internet services. Upon award of a successful bidder, a two (2) year professional services agreement is anticipated. At its sole discretion, NHS may request to extend the contract. Detailed instructions and minimum requirements for the bids may be obtained from NHS, Southwest of US Hwy 264 & Indian Road, Suite #2A, Window Rock, AZ or by calling 928-871-7061 or via email to Lavine J. Roan, Principal Contract Analyst at lroan@navajo-nsn.gov To obtain bid packet, go to www.nnoc.org. All bids must be received by Thursday, July 02, 2020 at 5:00pm (MST). No faxed or emailed proposals will be accepted. This invitation is unrestricted; however the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act will be applied. To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 04, 11, 18, 25, 2020.

On February 26, 2020 Cochise Media LLC, Licensee of radio station KDVK, 103.5 Mhz, Dove Creek Colorado, filed an application for construction permit with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington DC, requesting a modification of license to specify a new community of license at Navajo Mountain, Utah. The officers, directors and 10% or greater members of Cochise Media, LLC are Ted and Jana Tucker. A copy of this application and its related documents is available at the KDVK public file located online at publicfiles.fcc.gov To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 11, 18, 25, 2020.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Pumped Hydro Storage LLC  
Project No. 15024-000  
NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY  
PERMIT APPLICATION  
ACCEPTED FOR FILING AND  
SOLICITING  
COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO  
INTERVENE, AND  
COMPETING APPLICATIONS  
(June 2, 2020)

On March 11, 2020, the Pumped Hydro Storage LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project - to be located about 23 miles west of Tuba City, Arizona. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission. The proposed project would be located entirely on Navajo Nation land and consist of the following new facilities: (1) a 450-foot-long, 200-foot-high concrete arch dam

(Upper West Dam), a 1,000-foot-long, 150-foot-high earth filled dam (Middle Dam), and a 1,000-foot-long, 200-foot-high concrete arch dam (Upper East Dam), each of which would impound three separate upper reservoirs with a combine surface area of 400 acres and a total storage capacity of 29,000 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 5,390 feet average mean sea level (msl); (2) a 600-foot-long, 400-foot-high concrete arch dam (Lower Dam) that would impound a lower reservoir with a surface area of 260 acres and a total storage capacity of 44,000 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 3,790 feet msl; (3) three 10,000-foot-long, 30-foot-diameter reinforced concrete penstocks; (4) a 1,100-foot-long, 160-foot-wide, 140-foot-high reinforced concrete powerhouse housing nine 400-kilowatt pump-turbine generators; (5) a 1,000-foot-long, 120-foot-wide, 40-foot-high reinforced concrete tailrace; (6) three water supply wells with a capacity of 700 horsepower each and a 1,800-foot-long, 36-inch-diameter well water supply pipeline; (7) two new double circuit 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines that connect the project switchyard to the existing 500-kV and 345-kV transmission lines located 14 miles east of the proposed project; and (8) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual power generation at the Navajo Nation Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project would be 7,900 Gigawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Steve Irwin, Manager, Pumped Hydro Storage LLC, 6514 S 41st Lane, Phoenix, AZ, 85041 Swirwin7@gmail.com

FERC Contact: Ousmane Sidibe, Phone: (202) 502-6245  
Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 C.F.R. § 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecoment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-15024-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp. Enter the docket number (P-15024) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. Kimberly D. Bose Secretary.  
1 In its application, Pumped Hydro

Storage named the project the Navajo Nation Big Canyon Pumped Storage Project. We note that the proposed project is not in any way affiliated with the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Nation has not had any role in Pumped Hydro Storage's pursuit of this project. To avoid any confusion as to the identity of the project proponent, we have omitted "Navajo Nation" from the project name. To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 11, 18, 25, July 02, 2020.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF THE NAVAJO NATION  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF  
CHINLE, ARIZONA  
ARLENE WALKER,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
ANDERSON TULLIE, EMERSON HORACE III, and QUANNIE TAX AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES LLC,  
Defendants.

No.CH-CV-148-19  
AMENDED NOTICE OF SUIT  
TO: ANDERSON TULLIE,

You or your attorney are hereby directed to file a pleading or motion in response to the Complaint for Fraud, Negligent Misrepresentation, Breach of Fiduciary Duty, and for Violation of Navajo Nation unfair Trade Practices Act on file herein on or before July 15, 2020, in the Office of the Clerk of the above Court, sitting within and for the Chinle District Court, that being the Court in which said Petition is filed, and to serve a copy of the same pleading or motion upon Petitioner or its attorneys, MASON & ISAACSON, P.A., 104 East Aztec Avenue, Gallup, New Mexico 87301. Unless an appearance is entered by you in this cause on or before the above date, judgment will be rendered against you by default.

WITNESS the hand and seal of this Court on this 26th day of May, 2020. /s/ District Court Clerk  
To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 11, 18, 25, and July 02, 2020.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

BID No. 20-06-2322LE  
Navajo Nation Department of Health - Navajo Community Health Representative & Outreach Program  
Surface Pro Laptops, Computer Accessories, Hardware/Software through COVID-19 Telehealth Program  
To obtain bid package, go to Website: www.nnoc.org Link: Purchasing RFPs/Ad  
To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 18, 25, 2020.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

OWNER: Navajo Nation on behalf of Canoncito Band of Navajos/  
To'Hajiilee Chapter  
Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of the TO'HAIJILEE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT will be received by the OWNER at the office of the ENGINEER, Souder, Miller & Associates, Attention: George Mihalik, P.E. until 2:00 p.m. (MDT), Friday July 24th, 2020, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud via video conference call.

Description: Work of the project consists of the construction of approximately 9,400 linear feet of 8-inch, 25,500 linear feet of 6-inch and 4,300 linear feet of 4-inch C900 DR18 PVC waterlines, 30

service connections with water meters, replacement of a pressure reducing valve assembly, a new booster pump station, rehabilitation of five existing welded steel water storage tanks and associated appurtenances.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS in electronic media format at no cost may be obtained at the website of the ENGINEER, Souder, Miller & Associates: www.soudermiller.com/bid-requests  
The office of the ENGINEER is located at:  
5454 Venice Avenue, N.E.  
Suite D  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
(505) 299-0942

Preference will be given in accordance with the Navajo Nation Business Opportunities Act, N.N.C. Title 5, Chapter 2. Bidders claiming preference shall submit evidence of their priority certification with their bid. All firms submitting bids under this solicitation must comply with all other qualification requirements referenced in the solicitation documents for their bid to be considered responsive.

A NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING will be held via video conference call on Monday June 29th, 2020 at 10 a.m. (MDT).  
A NON-MANDATORY PROJECT SITE VISIT will be held at the project site in To'Hajiilee, New Mexico, on Wednesday July 1st, 2020 at 10 a.m. (MDT).

Video call in details, pre-bid meeting agenda, project site visit details and any updates will be made available through the ENGINEER's website: www.soudermiller.com/bid-requests  
Bidders are responsible for monitoring the website referenced above for notifications of changes and addenda related to this project.

To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 18 & June 25, 2020.

Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation (TCRHCC) invites Proposals from qualified firms to provide Financial Statement Audit services for TCRHCC, located in Tuba City, Navajo Nation, Arizona. Invitations are open to all qualified firms. The selection of the firm shall be made in accordance with the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act, 5 N.N.C. § 201 et seq., and the selected firm shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations of the Navajo Nation. A mandatory Pre-Proposal conference will be held on June 19, 2020. All proposals must be received by TCRHCC at 167 North Main Street, Administration Building, Finance Department, on or before 2:00 p.m., MDT on June 26, 2020. Proposals submitted via electronic mail are due on the Due Date and Time. The full Request for Proposals (RFP) may be requested via e-mail to: Crystal McCabe, Contract Specialist  
Finance Department  
Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation  
E-mail: Crystal.McCabe@tchealth.org  
To be published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 18, 25, 2020.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

School Year 2020-2023  
NAZLINI COMMUNITY SCHOOL INC.  
HC 58 BOX 35  
GANADO, AZ 86505  
Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of Nazlini Com-

munity School, Inc, Apache County, Arizona, will receive proposals For:

- Audit Services
- Counseling Services
- General Education
- Food Products, Supplies and Compliance Services
- General, Property & Auto Insurance
- Occupational Therapy Services Special Education
- Physical Therapy Services Special Education
- School Psychology Services Special Education
- Speech Therapy Services

Details of this RFP can be Obtained via telecom at (928) 755-3711 ext. 5.

Submission of Proposals. Sealed proposals are due no later than 4 P.M. June 30, 2020.  
To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 18, 25, 2020.

DINÉ COLLEGE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
Diné College is requesting for proposals (RFP) for the following:

- Arizona Lobbyist

RFP packets are available for interested parties by contacting Adrian Crosby, Procurement, at 928-724-6686 or via email at adricrosby@dinecollege.edu (Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm).

All interested parties must submit proposals in a sealed envelope with the firm name and address clearly written on the envelope. Proposals which are faxed or emailed will not be accepted. Sealed bids accepted by the due date on the RFP. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Diné College reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, whether within applicable cost limits, and to waive any informality or irregularity in the proposals received whenever such proposal rejection or waiver is in the best interest of Diné College. Submitted proposal for this RFP will become the property of Diné College and become a matter of public record, subject for review.  
To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 18, 25, 2020.

Request for Proposal

Bid Number: 20-05-2310LE  
The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller - Purchasing Department and the Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT) are soliciting proposals and sealed bids for "Bid #: 20-05-2310LE, Moenave Road, Tuba City, Aggregate Base Course"

Contacts for a bid packet are:

- 1) Sheila Clyde, Sr. Office Specialist Navajo Division of Transportation - Roads, sclyde@navajodot.org; (928) 551-7108 or (505) 371-8300.
- 2) Jeremy Ben, Navajo Nation Purchasing Department, jben@nnoc.org, (928) 871-6316

Closing date is July 3, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Saving Time (M.D.T.). Any proposal(s) received after this date and time will not be accepted and will be returned to the sender. No faxed or email proposals or bids will be accepted.

To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 25, July 02, 2020.

Public Notice

Navajo Technical University (NTU) Invitation to Bid (IFB-2020-06) For Skidsteer with Bucket & Implements  
OPEN DATE: June 23, 2020

CLOSING DATE: July 7, 2020 (5:00 p.m. DST)  
Navajo Technical University is soliciting bids from qualified vendor for the purchase of a Skidsteer with Bucket & Implements. Bids are due at the NTU Business Office. Bids can be submitted either by U.S. postal mail or electronic mail before 5:00 p.m. DST on July 7, 2020.  
For more information (Bid spec, bid requirements and bid package) contact or refer to NTU website: www.navajotech.edu or GGamble@navajotech.edu  
To be Published in the Navajo Times June 25, July 02, 2020.

Public Notice

Navajo Technical University (NTU) Invitation to Bid (IFB-2020-07) For Utility Tractor (90 HP)

OPEN DATE: June 23, 2020  
CLOSING DATE: July 7, 2020 (5:00 p.m. DST)

Navajo Technical University is soliciting bids from qualified vendors for the purchase of a Utility Tractor. Bids are due at the NTU Business Office. Bids can be submitted either by U.S. postal mail or electronic mail before 5:00 p.m. DST on July 7, 2020.  
For more information (Bid specs, bid requirements and bid package) contact or refer to NTU website: www.navajotech.edu or GGamble@navajotech.edu  
To be Published in the Navajo Times June 25, July 02, 2020.

Navajo Nation Division

of Transportation  
Request for Proposal (RFP)  
Bid No. 20-05-2317LE

The Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT) is soliciting proposals to construct "N9402(2)1,2&3 Bridge N656 Replacement Project in Lupton, AZ". The proposed work consists of grading, subgrade, placement of aggregate base course with stabilization, installation of drainage structures, bridge replacement with abutment protection, traffic signs, and other miscellaneous work as called for in the design plans and specifications for this 0.390 km (0.242 miles) bridge replacement project over the Rio Puerco River in Lupton, AZ, Apache County, Navajo Nation. Proposals will be subject to all requirements specified in RFP No. 20-05-2317LE. The RFP package will be available for download from the Navajo DOT website (www.navajodot.org), beginning June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM.  
A MANDATORY Virtual Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM (local Window Rock, AZ time). The Pre-Proposal Meeting will consist of a brief presentation explaining the Project Scope and the necessary items required to be submitted as part of the RFP. Contractors are encouraged to conduct a field review of the project site located 0.25 miles south of I-40 in Lupton, AZ on their own. The link for the web meeting and conference call number are as follows:  
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/963957325  
1-877-568-4106.  
Access Code 963-957-325  
Proposal and bid package must be physically submitted to the following address by July 23, 2020, no later than 4:00 PM (local Window Rock, AZ time):  
Navajo Division of Transportation  
Attention: Ardaniel Begay

Navajo Transportation Complex  
#16 Old Coal Mine Road  
Mentmore, NM 87319  
(505) 371-8351

The Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act and Navajo Preference Act shall apply to this project. Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these provisions. Having preference does not guarantee the award of the project. Competitive Sealed Proposals under the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act shall be utilized in the selection of the Contractor. Refer to 12 N.N.C. §332 Competitive Sealed Proposals.  
The Navajo Nation reserves the right to waive any formalities or irregularities in the Request for Proposals and/or to reject any or all bids; to be the sole judge of the suitability of the materials offered and to award a contract for the furnishing of services it deems to be in the best interest of the Navajo Nation.  
To be Published in the Navajo Times June 25, July 02, 09, 16, 2020.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Fort Defiance, Apache County

Arizona

NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY

AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TELECOMMUNICATION

MONOPOLE STRUCTURES

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) is hereby contacting qualified structure installation suppliers to provide engineering, materials and installation services for telecommunication monopolies at the following sites:

- Anasazi Structure in Shonto, Arizona
- Fort Defiance West Structure in Fort Defiance, Arizona
- Kayenta West Structure in Kayenta, Arizona
- Lo'kaah Ni Teel Structure in Ganado, Arizona

A pre-proposal conference call in meeting will be held on July 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. local time. Attendance at the pre-proposal conference is not mandatory to submit a proposal response.

Instructions and Scope of Work can be obtained from Avis Jimm, Contract Administrator, at (928) 729-6243 or by email avisj@ntua.com or at NTUA Purchasing Department, North Navajo Route 12, Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Proposal and Cost shall each be submitted in separate sealed envelopes clearly marked: for the Proposal "DO NOT OPEN - FIBER OPTIC CONSTRUCTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (PROPOSAL)" and for the Cost "DO NOT OPEN - FIBER OPTIC CONSTRUCTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (COST)" and received by July 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (DST). No late, facsimiled, or electronic mailed proposals will be accepted.

To ensure delivery by the due date and time, all proposals should be addressed to:  
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:  
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority  
ATTN: Avis Jimm,  
Purchasing Department  
North Navajo Route 12 (Fed Ex/UPS/Hand-Delivery)  
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504

Preference will be applied in accordance with the Navajo Business and Procurement Act (12 N.N.C. § 1501 et seq.); the Navajo Nation Procurement Act (12 N.N.C. § 301 et seq.); the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act (5 N.N.C. § 201 et seq.) and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. Proposers must submit evidence of their Preference Priority Certification if applicable.

To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES, June 25, 2020.

statutory and regulatory requirements. Proposers must submit evidence of their Preference Priority Certification if applicable. To be Published in the Navajo Times June 25, 2020.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Secure the Services of a Copy Editor

The Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission is requesting for bids to secure the services of an editor to review the commission report on funerary activities. The commission report is in draft and 30 pages in length. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission plans to present the report to the Navajo Nation Council during the 2020 Fall Session. Details about the bid information such as the format of the bid, deliverables, please contact the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at: Leonard Gorman, Executive Director  
Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission  
P.O. Box 129  
St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (AZ) 86515  
(928) 871-7436  
Email: nnhrc@navajo-nsn.gov  
To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES June 25, July 02, 2020.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Fort Defiance, Apache County

Arizona

NAVAJO TRIBAL

UTILITY AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FIBER OPTIC CONSTRUCTION

FOR MISCELLANEOUS

PROJECTS

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) is hereby contacting qualified contractors to install/construct fiber optic lines at various locations across the Navajo Nation. Instructions and Scope of Work can be obtained from Avis Jimm, Contract Administrator, at (928) 729-6243 or by email avisj@ntua.com or at NTUA Purchasing Department, North Navajo Route 12, Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Proposal and Cost shall each be submitted in separate sealed envelopes clearly marked: for the Proposal "DO NOT OPEN - FIBER OPTIC CONSTRUCTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (PROPOSAL)" and for the Cost "DO NOT OPEN - FIBER OPTIC CONSTRUCTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (COST)" and received by July 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (DST). No late, facsimiled, or electronic mailed proposals will be accepted.

To ensure delivery by the due date and time, all proposals should be addressed to:  
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:  
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority  
ATTN: Avis Jimm,  
Purchasing Department  
North Navajo Route 12 (Fed Ex/UPS/Hand-Delivery)  
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504

Preference will be applied in accordance with the Navajo Business and Procurement Act (12 N.N.C. § 1501 et seq.); the Navajo Nation Procurement Act (12 N.N.C. § 301 et seq.); the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act (5 N.N.C. § 201 et seq.) and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. Proposers must submit evidence of their Preference Priority Certification if applicable.

To be Published in the NAVAJO TIMES, June 25, 2020.

★ ★ ★ PRIMARY ELECTION – SAN JUAN COUNTY UTAH ★ ★ ★  
June 30, 2020

PRIMARY ELECTION

- San Juan County Utah will hold a Primary Election to determine candidates for 2020 General Election.

COVID-19

- SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WILL BE IN PLACE AT POLLING LOCATIONS TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE VOTER

VOTE BY MAIL

- Election ballots will be mailed to active voters by May 29, 2020
- Vote your ballot, put it into the blue envelope, sign your name next to the red arrow, and then seal the envelope
- If a voter wants to mail the ballot to County Clerk's Office, it must be postmarked by June 30, 2020
- Voters can cast their ballots at the satellite offices during the early voting period
- Voters can cast their ballots at the polling places on June 30th, Election Day

REMINDER

- Voters voting at polling locations need to bring an ID. If no ID is provided, voters may be asked to get their ID or vote a provisional ballot.

POLLING LOCATIONS

WILL BE OPEN SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE NAVAJO NATION

- Montezuma Creek, the Diné Professional Building (behind the Post Office) - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Monument Valley Welcome Center – 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Navajo Mountain Chapter House – 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Clerk's Office in Monticello – 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Navajo voters needing assistance to understand the ballot:

- Navajo language assistance will be provided at each polling place by the county staff interpreting the entire ballot from the written English language to the Navajo language
- San Juan County Utah is required under federal law to provide language assistance to voters that have a difficult time understanding the English language, Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

- Individuals may register to vote at satellite offices and receive a ballot on location from June 1st to June 26th
- Individuals may register to vote on election day and cast a provisional ballot on June 30th
- Provisional ballot requires that the voter's identification be verified by July 6th. If the voter's identification cannot be verified, the provisional ballot will not be counted

For more information contact San Juan County Clerk's Office  
at (435) 587-3223 or go to [www.sanjuancounty.org](http://www.sanjuancounty.org)

Early Voting Information  
San Juan County Utah - 2020 Primary Election

Primary Election

- San Juan County Utah will hold a Primary Election to determine candidates for the 2020 General Election.

COVID-19

- SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WILL BE IN PLACE AT POLLING LOCATIONS TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE VOTER

Satellite Office Locations:

WILL BE OPEN SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE NAVAJO NATION

Montezuma Creek Diné Professional Building – June 1st, June 8th, June 15th, June 22nd  
Bluff Community Center – June 3rd, June 10th, June 17th, June 24th  
Monument Valley Welcome Center – June 5th, June 12th, June 19th, June 26th  
All satellite office locations will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Please visit any satellite location with election related questions, including the Primary Election

Services offered at each satellite office location:

- Navajo Language Assistance
- Drop off voted ballots received by mail
- Register to Vote or update Voter Registration
- Obtain a replacement ballot
- Find out where Polling locations will be on Election Day

For more information contact San Juan County Clerk's Office  
at (435) 587-3223 or go to [www.sanjuancounty.org](http://www.sanjuancounty.org)

PRIMARY ELECTION - SAN JUAN COUNTY UTAH  
COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Election Update

As precautions to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) continue to be taken, the San Juan County Clerk's Office is taking measures to help keep the public safe and informed regarding Primary Election on June 30th.

Since current restrictions in certain areas do not allow for individuals to leave their homes. San Juan County has set up a toll free number where voters can receive Primary Election Information including Early Voting Locations, Election Day information and services offered.

Eligible voters will receive a ballot in the mail. You can still vote at a polling location on election day, but for health and safety reasons we suggest you mail your ballot rather than voting in person.

Toll Free Number  
1-800-814-0396

For questions or more information contact:

- San Juan County Clerk's Office at (435) 587-3223 or go to [www.sanjuancounty.org](http://www.sanjuancounty.org)
- Carl Holiday, Election Liaison at (928) 429-5738
- Elsie Dee, Election Liaison at (435) 444-9053

REPUBLICAN OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH TUESDAY JUNE 30, 2020	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote for the candidate of your choice, fill in the oval next to the candidate's name. Use a black or blue ballpoint pen. If you tear, detach, or wrongly mark this ballot, contact the County Clerk's office. Completely fill in the oval.	
STATEWIDE RACES	
Republican for Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One	
<input type="radio"/> THOMAS E. WRIGHT ROB BISHOP	
<input type="radio"/> SPENCER J. COX DEIDRE M. HENDERSON	
<input type="radio"/> JON HUNTSMAN JR. MICHELLE KAUFUSI	
<input type="radio"/> GREG HUGHES VICTOR MERSON	
Republican for Attorney General Vote for One	
<input type="radio"/> SEAN D. REYES	
<input type="radio"/> DAVID O. LEAVITT	
COUNTY RACES	
Republican for County Recorder Vote for One	
<input type="radio"/> DAVID O. CARPENTER	
<input type="radio"/> CINDI HOLYOAK	
Republican for County Assessor Vote for One	
<input type="radio"/> LOGAN BOYD	
<input type="radio"/> RICK D. MEYER	

(Not Actual Size)



LEGAL NOTICES (cont.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
School Year 2020-2023  
NAZLINI COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL INC.  
HC 58 BOX 35  
GANADO, AZ 86505

Notice is hereby given that the  
Governing Board of Nazlini Com-  
munity School, Inc. Apache Coun-  
ty, Arizona, will receive proposals  
For: • IT Network Services  
Due to the current pandemic an  
on-site Visit to view the network  
set up is Not recommended. Infor-  
mation and Details of this RFP can  
be Obtained via telecom at (928)  
755-3711 ext. 4  
Submission of Proposals. Sealed  
proposals are due no later than 4  
P.M. June 30, 2020.  
To be Published in the NAVAJO  
TIMES June 18, 25, 2020.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT  
Fort Defiance, Apache County  
Arizona  
NAVAJO TRIBAL  
UTILITY AUTHORITY  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
ENGINEERING SERVICES -  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
SERVICES OF  
LIFT STATION FACILITIES  
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority  
(NTUA) is hereby contacting  
qualified firms to provide design  
services and construction man-  
agement services for the refur-  
bishment/remodel/replacement  
of lift station facilities at five (5)  
sites located in Coalmine, Arizona;  
LeChee, Arizona; Sawmill, Arizo-  
na; Coyote Canyon, New Mexico;  
and Iyanbito, New Mexico.  
A mandatory pre-proposal confer-  
ence call-in meeting will be held  
on July 6, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. local  
time. Attendance at the pre-pro-  
posal conference is mandatory to

submit a proposal response.  
Instructions and Scope of Work  
can be obtained from Avis Jimm,  
Contract Administrator, at (928)  
729-6243 or by email avisj@ntua.  
com or at NTUA Purchasing De-  
partment, North Navajo Route 12,  
Fort Defiance, Arizona.  
Proposal and Cost shall each be  
submitted in separate sealed en-  
velopes clearly marked:  
for the Proposal "DO NOT OPEN  
- ENGINEERING SERVICES  
- DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
OF LIFT STATION FACILITIES  
(PROPOSAL)" and for the Cost  
"DO NOT OPEN - ENGINEER-  
ING SERVICES - DESIGN &  
CONSTRUCTION OF LIFT STA-  
TION FACILITIES (COST)" and  
received by July 17, 2020 at 5:00  
p.m. (DST). No late, facsimiled,  
or electronic mailed proposals will  
be accepted.  
To ensure delivery by the due date  
and time, all proposals should be  
addressed to:  
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:  
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority  
ATTN: Avis Jimm,

Purchasing Department  
North Navajo Route 12 (Fed Ex/  
UPS/Hand-Deliver)  
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504  
Preference will be applied in ac-  
cordance with the Navajo Business  
and Procurement Act (12 N.N.C. §  
1501 et seq.); the Navajo Nation  
Procurement Act (12 N.N.C. § 301  
et seq.); the Navajo Nation Busi-  
ness Opportunity Act (5 N.N.C. §  
201 et seq.) and other applicable  
statutory and regulatory require-  
ments. Proposers must submit  
evidence of their Preference Prior-  
ity Certification if applicable.  
To be Published in the NAVAJO  
TIMES June 25, 2020.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
FOR HVAC REPLACEMENT  
AND 5-YEAR MAINTENANCE  
AGREEMENT  
RFP2020-01

The Ramah Navajo School Board,  
Inc. (RNSB) is requesting for pro-  
posals. Interested companies may  
obtain the Request for Proposals  
by contacting Mr. William Becker  
at (505) 775-3272 or William.beck-

er@lhs.gov  
NO facsimile or email proposals  
will be accepted.  
Proposals shall be clearly marked:  
"DO NOT OPEN-RFP2020-01  
HVAC CONTRACTOR SEALED  
BID" and submitted to Ramah  
Navajo School Board, Inc. Atten-  
tion: Procurement Officer P.O. Box  
29 Pine Hill, New Mexico 87357  
or BIA Rt. 125 Receiving Center  
Pine Hill, New Mexico 87357.  
Proposals shall be submitted no  
later than 10July2020. 5PM (MT).  
The Ramah Navajo School Board,  
Inc. reserves the right to reject  
any or all proposals and waive  
formalities or decline irregularities  
in any proposals or bids. Propo-  
sals received after the closing date  
and time will not be considered for  
review. Navajo/Indian Preference  
will apply and will be evaluated  
in accordance with Navajo Nation  
Business Opportunity Act. 5 N.N.  
§§ 201-215 to extent permitted by  
applicable federal law.  
To be Published in the NAVAJO  
TIMES June 25, 2020.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR  
Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment Consulting Services  
FOR THE  
Lukachukai Community School  
Replacement  
RFP #005- 2020

The Lukachukai Community School (LCS) Board in Lukachukai, Arizona, invites the submittal of  
Proposals for Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment (FF&E) Consulting Services from qualified firms  
("Submitting Firm") properly licensed in the State of Arizona. All Proposals will be subject to all  
requirements specified in the Request for Proposals package (the "RFP"). RFP hard copies may be obtained  
at the following location beginning **Thursday, June 11, 2020. Lukachukai Community School, IR 13  
in Lukachukai, AZ. Business Office;** or via email by contacting Al Francis at  
[al.francis@mvpemcservices.com](mailto:al.francis@mvpemcservices.com) (suggested). RFPs will not be faxed or mailed.

The Proposal submittals for the Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment Consulting Services are due on  
**Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 3 PM Lukachukai, Arizona local time. Proposals are to be submitted to the  
LCS Business Office on IR 13, Lukachukai, Arizona. Note daylight savings time.**

The Owner reserves the right to cancel this request or reject any or all Proposals in whole or in part if it is  
in the best interest of the Lukachukai Community School.



Call of Election  
School Board Vacancies  
All School Districts—2020

Date of Elections: November 3, 2020  
Polls Open 6:00am—7:00pm  
Last Day to Register: 10/5/2020

School District	Vacancies	Terms
St. Johns Unified School Dist#1	2	4 Year
Concho Elementary School Dist#6	3	4 Year
Alpine Elementary School Dist#7	1	4 Year
Window Rock Unified School Dist#8	2	4 Year
Vernon Elementary School Dist#9	4	3-4 Yr; 1-2 Yr
Round Valley Unified School Dist#10	2	4 Year
Sanders Unified School Dist#18	2	4 Year
Ganado Unified School Dist#20	2	4 Year
McNary Elementary School Dist#23	1	4 Year
Chinle Unified School Dist#24	3	4 Year
Red Mesa Unified School Dist#27	4	3-4 Yr; 1-2 Yr
NATIVE Window Rock	1	4 Year
NATIVE Sanders	1	4 Year
NATIVE Ganado	1	4 Year
NAVIT St. Johns	1	4 Year
NAVIT Round Valley	1	4 Year

Interested in running? Pick up your packets at:

APACHE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
PO Box 548—75 North 1st West  
St. Johns, Arizona 85936  
928-337-7539 or 928-337-7540  
Filing Dates are 8:00am June 6, 2020 through  
5:00pm July 6, 2020, MST at the  
Apache County School Superintendent's Office

Secretary of State and Apache County  
Logic and Accuracy Testing  
August 4, 2020 Primary Election

The Arizona Secretary of State will be holding Logic  
and Accuracy testing on the Accessible and Optical  
Voting Equipment, Thursday, July 02, 2020 at 11:00  
AM.  
Apache County will be holding Logic and Accuracy  
testing on the Accessible and Optical Voting Equip-  
ment, Thursday, July 02, 2020 at 2:00 PM.  
For more information, contact Angela Romero,  
Apache County Elections Director at 928-337-7537.

NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND  
1506 BROADWAY, BOULDER, CO 80302

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Communications Director

Location: Native American Rights Fund (NARF)  
Boulder, Colorado

Closing Date: Open until filled with interviews starting in July

Description: The Native American Rights Fund is a non-profit national  
Indian legal services organization representing Indian tribes, organiza-  
tions, and individuals in Indian law matters of major significance. NARF's  
main office is in Boulder, Colorado, with additional offices in Washing-  
ton, D.C. and Anchorage, Alaska. NARF is looking for an experienced,  
multi-talented Communications professional to be responsible for the  
design, development, and implementation of its Communications De-  
partment as well as leading outreach to both media and supporters. A  
solid understanding of the historical relationships between states, the  
United States, and tribes is preferred.

Qualifications: Required Qualifications: Bachelor degree in English,  
Communications, Public Relations, Journalism, or related field. At least  
seven years of experience in marketing, communications, or public rela-  
tions. Intimate knowledge of Native American communities and culture.  
American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are encouraged  
to apply. View the full job description at <http://www.narf.org/contact-us/join-team>. NARF is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Salary & Benefits: Salary is highly competitive, plus generous health  
and vacation benefits.

Application Procedure: Submit by email: a cover letter, complete re-  
sume and three references to: Mauda Moran, Communications Manager,  
Native American Rights Fund, [mauda@narf.org](mailto:mauda@narf.org).

Navajo County Recorder's Office | 928.524.4192  
Navajo County Election Services | 928.524.4062

Vote Safe  
In 2020!

You have choices while voting  
during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Vote from Home!

Request an Early Ballot, we will mail it to you! You  
can either request it for one Election, the 2020  
Election Cycle or Permanently. You can also track  
your ballot every step of the way with Ballot Trak. Call  
us and we will tell you more about it or visit <https://navajocountyvotes.ballottrax.net/voter>

Vote at any Early Voting Site

The Recorder's office will provide several opportunities  
for you to vote early at an Early Voting Site. To avoid  
crowds, take advantage of voting up to 27 days before  
Election Day. Contact the Recorders office for more  
information.

Vote in a Vote Center on Election Day

Vote Centers will be open on Election Day, however  
social distancing will be requested, and limited voters  
will be allowed inside at one time. We will  
provide hand sanitizer; sanitization of  
equipment and Poll workers will be  
provided with protective gear. Wait  
times may be longer.



Request for Proposals (RFP)

Tuba City High School Board, Inc., dba: Greyhills Academy High School hereby request for  
sealed bids form qualified vendors to provide:

1. GAHSPRO 20-21 Propane Supply
2. ESS 20-01 – Speech and Language Pathologist
3. ESS 20-02 – School Psychologist
4. ESS 20-03 – Physical Therapist
5. ESS 20-04 – Occupational Therapist

Specific information concerning these bids may be obtained by contacting Kyle Blackrock,  
Purchasing & Material Control Technician via email [blackrockkyle@gmail.com](mailto:blackrockkyle@gmail.com). RFPs are to be  
received no later than Thursday, June 25, 2020, 4:00 pm Day Light Savings Time. Greyhills  
Academy High School reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids/proposals in the best  
interest of Greyhills Academy High School.

NAVAJO HEALTH FOUNDATION - SAGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Employment Opportunities:

Positions - Open Until Filled

- Behavioral Health Manager
- Revenue Cycle Manager
- Family Practice Physician
- Optometrist
- Staff Pharmacist
- Staff Dentist
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Clinical Psychologist
- Social Worker (LCSW)
- Patient Admission & Registration Supervisor
- Information Technology Technician
- Security Officer (2 positions - Temporary)
- Physical Therapist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Radiology Technologist/CT
- Registered Nurses (ER, MTU, & OPD)
- Diabetes/CHN Supervisor
- Diabetes/Community Health Nurse
- Grant Writer
- Coding Specialist
- Account Representative

Positions with Closing Dates:

- Health Information Management Clerk I (Closing Date: 06/25/2020)
- Registered Nurse Case Manager (Closing Date: 06/25/2020)
- Emergency Room Technician (Closing Date: 07/08/2020)
- Food Service Worker (Temporary) (Closing Date: 07/08/2020)

The Navajo Health Foundation/Sage Memorial Hospital is a drug/alcohol free, EOE/AA/Navajo  
Preference Employer. Contact Human Resources at (928) 755-4705 for additional details. To apply,  
please send employment application, resume, certifications, and letter of interest to Navajo Health  
Foundation/Sage Memorial Hospital, Attn: Human Resources Dept., PO Box 457, Ganado, AZ 86505 or  
fax # (928) 755-4659 or [apply@sagememorial.com](mailto:apply@sagememorial.com).

[www.sagememorial.com](http://www.sagememorial.com)



EXTERNAL-JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT  
SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021  
Hunters Point Boarding School, Inc.

CERTIFIED

Teacher- Navajo Immersion  
Teacher  
Counselor  
SPED Teacher

PART TIME

Substitutes (Academic, Residential & Bus Drivers)

Closing Date: Open until filled

HPBSI offers competitive salaries, employer paid medical, dental, vision  
insurance, 401k retirement plan, and more.

To apply, please submit an application packet available online and email to  
[jobs@hpbs-az.org](mailto:jobs@hpbs-az.org) or fax to (928)871-4435. Applications can also be mailed,  
please be sure mail is postmarked by 4/24/2020 to be accepted.

In accordance to P.L. 101-630, P.L. 101-647 & 25 CFR 53, applicants must successfully complete and pass  
a criminal background check and character investigation, at own expense prior to hire.

For more information, call 928-871-4439 or visit [www.hpbs-az.org](http://www.hpbs-az.org) for application requirements and  
submission. Hunters Point Boarding School, Inc. is a Navajo Preference Employer.

Hunters Point Boarding School, P.O. Box 99 Route 12 South Lupton Rd, St. Michaels, AZ 86511  
[www.hpbs-az.org](http://www.hpbs-az.org) T: 928-871-4439/4793 F: 928-871-4435



TSÉHOOTSOOÍ  
Medical Center  
A Facility of Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Advanced Practice Clinician I
- Advanced Practice Clinician (NP or PA)
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- Chief Nursing Officer
- Chief of OB/GYN
- Chief of Radiology Services
- Clinical Psychologist
- Environmental Service Technician (Housekeeping)
- Health Information Technician (Rotating)
- HIM Coder (Outpatient)
- Inpatient Pharmacy Supervisor
- Mammography Technologist
- Native Connection Grant (NCG) Coordinator
- Native Connection Grant (NCG) Outreach Educator
- Native Connection Grant (NCG) Social Worker
- Optometrist (Clinical)
- PACS Administrator
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
- Public Health Nurse II (NDZ)
- Radiologist
- Radiologist Technologist
- Registered Nurse (Various Positions)
- Staff Physician (Various Positions)
- Supply Technician
- Ultrasound Technologist
- Wound Care / Ostomy Nurse
- ZSI Clinical RN and Case Manager

Apply at: [www.fdihb.org](http://www.fdihb.org)

For more information call: (928) 729-8000

TSÉHOOTSOOÍ Medical Center is a Navajo Preference Employer



HOPI JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
Vacancy Announcement  
Updated: June 12, 2020

CERTIFIED POSITIONS

Position Title:	Days in Contract:	School Year:	Closing Date:
Vocational Education-Computer Teacher	180 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled
High School Math Teacher	180 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled
Junior High Science Teacher	180 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled
Junior High Social Studies Teacher	180 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled
Junior High English Teacher	180 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled
Exceptional Education Teacher (2)	180 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled
Alcohol Substance Abuse Counselor	180 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

Position Title:	Days in Contract:	School Year:	Closing Date:
Dean of Students Secretary	261 Days	2020-2021	06/30/2020
Educational Aide (HS)	194 Days	2020-2021	06/30/2020
Educational Aide (SPED)	194 Days	2020-2021	06/30/2020
Certified Medical Assistant	194 Days	2020-2021	06/30/2020
School Security Officer (2)	194 Days	2020-2021	06/30/2020
School Certified Bus Drivers	194 Days	2020-2021	Open Until Filled
On-Call Substitute	On-Call Basis	2020-2021	Open Until Filled

COACHING POSITIONS

For more information, please contact: Mr. Ricky Greer, Athletic Director, Telephone (928) 738-1430.

If interested please submit the following: Completed Online Application at: [www.hjshs.org](http://www.hjshs.org) or  
<https://hjshs.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>. Resume, Letter of Interest, Copy of HS Diploma/ GED Certificate/  
College Degree, Copy of Professional Certificate, Unofficial High School/College Transcripts (Official Transcripts will  
be required upon hiring), Copy of Certificate of Indian Blood, Valid Arizona Teaching Certification (for Certified  
Positions), AZ DPS Fingerprint Clearance Card, Copy of Valid Driver License, and Motor Vehicle Driving Record (5  
years).

In accordance to P.L. 101-630, P.L. 101-647 & 25 CFR 63, all applicants are subject to complete and pass a criminal  
background check and character investigation upon prior to hire which includes a favorable state, federal and local  
Hopi background check.

For more information please contact our Human Resources Department at (928) 738-5111 ext. 1433 or email  
[hr@hjshs.org](mailto:hr@hjshs.org); PO Box 337 Keams Canyon, Arizona 86034; or visit our website: [www.hjshs.org](http://www.hjshs.org).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Hopi Junior Senior High School does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color,  
ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex or gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, or marital status.

TIISYAAKIN RESIDENTIAL HALL, INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1100 West Buffalo Street  
Holbrook, AZ 86025  
Phone: (928)524-6222

POSITIONS OPEN FOR: SY 2020-2021

1. Part-Time Tutors
2. Part-Time Bus Drivers
3. Business Technician
4. Diné Language & Culture Coordinator
5. Lead Residential Advisor – 1
6. Residential Advisors - 3
7. Security/Firewatch – 2
8. Cooks – 3
9. Custodian - 1

OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Forward the Following Documents:

1. Tiisyaakin Residential Hall Employment Application
2. Current Resume
3. Letter of Interest
4. (3) Current Letters of Recommendations
5. Valid AZ Drivers License
6. Applicants must complete AZ DPS, Federal, and Navajo Nation  
Background Clearances at their own expense prior to employment
7. Unofficial Transcripts/Certificates
8. Certificate of Indian Blood (if applicable & claiming preference)

Tiisyaakin Residential Hall is an Equal Opportunity Employer and gives  
Preference in hiring qualified Navajos and Native Americans.

All positions and hiring may be subject to change due to the effects of  
COVID-19 on schools. Employment Applications are only available on our  
website at [tiisyaakin.org](http://tiisyaakin.org) Please mail completed applications and documents to  
1100 West Buffalo Street, Holbrook, AZ 86025.

06/08/2020

LUKACHUKAI COMMUNITY BOARD OF EDUCATION, INC.

PO BOX 230, NAVAJO ROUTE 13, LUKACHUKAI, ARIZONA 86507  
PHONE: (928) 787-4403/4408 FAX: (928) 787-2311

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

ADMINISTRATION POSITION

- \*SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR (12 MONTHS)
- TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR (12 MONTHS)
- HOMELIVING MANAGER (12 MONTHS)
- FACILITY MANAGER (12 MONTHS)

CERTIFIED POSITION

- \*MUSIC TEACHER (10 MONTHS)

CLASSIFIED POSITION

- PROCUREMENT CLERK (12 MONTHS)
- PAYROLL CLERK (12 MONTHS)

\*REQUIRES AZ DEPT. OF EDUCATION TEACHER CERTIFICATION

OPEN UNTIL JUNE 25, 2020, THURSDAY, 4PM.

Application Procedure: Visit the school website: [www.Lukaegles.org](http://www.Lukaegles.org) to view checklist of documents to be submitted  
with your application, if applicable for vacant position(s) and download an application or call the Business Office at  
(928)787-4408/4403 or Acting Principal at (928)349-0327. Qualifications will be evaluated on the requirements listed on  
the position description.

Employment Benefits include: Health/Life Insurance, 401(K) Retirement Plan and Housing Available.

Lukachukai Community School is an Equal Opportunity Employer and gives Preference in hiring qualified Navajos  
and Native Americans. Must have favorable background check and successfully pass a criminal & character background  
investigation in accordance with Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.



# Navajo Times

DINÉ BI NAALTSOOS

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