

RETIREES

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staff to keep going. She announced that the Navajo Nation had received the largest allocation of \$97 million from the \$1.34 billion from the U.S. Congress for the Native American housing program. The funds are part of a six-bill fiscal 2024 package.

Yazzie advises NHA and leaders to spend the funding wisely and hopes the new transition to the management team will continue to fight.

RDC chairperson Brenda Jesus admires the magnitude of knowledge that Yazzie

carried during her time with NHA, when she advocated for NAHASDA, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, and HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

"She's given her all to try and meet the standard living condition needs of our people across the Navajo Nation," Jesus said.

"Happy retirement 2024," said RCD Vice Chair Casey Allen-Johnson, who thanked Yazzie for the excellent work she brought to NHA.

"Congratulations, Aneva," said Council Delegate Rickie Nez. "You've done an excellent job, and you're that shining star. I'm sure that you gave the baton to someone that you've been training."

Delegate Otto Tso commends Yazzie's ability to progress with the federal government, which he admits is complicated, but acknowledges Yazzie's persistence.

"I just want to say thank you and my utmost respect to you," Delegate Shawna Ann Claw said to Yazzie, who mentioned NHA's new housing management office under construction in Chinle. "A lot of that work came from Aneva," Claw said.

Delegate Danny Simpson admires Yazzie's accomplishments for NHA with the new 18 homes.

"We really appreciate that," Simpson said. "Her leadership shows that she cares." Simpson thanked Yazzie on behalf of Crownpoint for the efforts and support in projects she was involved in with housing.



NAVAJO TIMES | BODERRA JOE

Aneva J. Yazzie from Báahazht'ah Is wrapped in a shawl and held a plaque. She was recognized for her retirement from the Navajo Housing Authority during a regular Resources and Development Committee meeting in Chinle on April 10. Yazzie served 13 years with NHA and added years in various positions. She thanks NHA and the Navajo Nation for allowing her to serve the people.

CAPITAL BRIEFS

BFC calls for finalized Navajo Nation Capital Improvement Plan in preparation for fiscal 2025 budget

WINDOW ROCK — On Tuesday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Budget and Finance Committee received a report from the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development regarding the Nation's Capital Improvement Plan.

Council Delegate Amber Kanabazh Crotty questioned DCD's proposed timeline to finalize the CIP, stating that the department is familiar with the process as they have undertaken it before.

"You need to identify the top priority projects from each chapter, as they've received funding, and move forward. I disagree that we should discuss or consider new projects. The committee needs a breakdown of what's going to be submitted to the controller, so we have it as a part of our budgeting process," Crotty said.

Through the Capital Improvement Office, the DCD is responsible for administering, coordinating, and developing the CIP, which provides for the planning of capital renewal for existing Navajo Nation assets and future infrastructure development needs.

Capital Projects Management Department Manager Dwayne Waseta provided an overview of the CIP process, emphasizing planning, budgeting, financial analysis, and chapter input analysis.

In formulating a CIP budget forecast, Waseta said that chapters need to consider the operating and maintenance costs in their proposals for new facilities to avoid budget miscalculations.

These costs are critical when considering the CIP, as DCD must balance bringing buildings up to code, repairing existing facilities, and potentially constructing new facilities.

"Chapters often fail to include these costs, which causes failure to maintain these buildings. This causes many problems. We don't have the financial resources to maintain everything across the board," Waseta said.

Delegate Carl R. Slater asked for standardized project listings, including deficiency ratings and funding sources for each building proposal.

"When you look at operational funding, DCD needs to evaluate proposals that include chapter budgets and other funding sources to help us understand, at a macro level, what funding opportunities exist for these facilities. Please also include cost shares," Slater said.

Crotty said the obstacles that DCD mentioned are areas that fall under their oversight.

"This committee funded DCD to create this list. If you don't have the capacity, let us know and we'll get someone who can move this forward. To meet the threshold of the budget requirement, we need to focus on what we have already and not request for additional funding," Crotty said. "When we start waiving laws, it jeopardizes and burdens your budgets."

DCD agreed to providing an updated CIP list to BFC by May 7. The BFC approved DCD's report with a vote of three in favor and zero opposed.

HEHSC advocates for Diné educational sovereignty at DBOBSA Spring Conference

WINDOW ROCK — During the Diné Bi' O'it'a'

School Board Association Spring Conference, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee members discussed cultural enhancement to the Navajo Nation educational system. These initiatives are designed to improve the quality of education for Navajo students, emphasizing maintaining Diné language and culture.

HEHSC has been integral in assisting DBOBSA in fostering educational advocacy on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

"We've been relentless in our quest to secure better funding and resources for our schools, making sure our voice is heard at the national level," said HEHSC Chairman Vince James.

The DBOBSA provides vital support for the Navajo Nation School Boards. According to James, "DBOBSA is more than an association; it's the cornerstone of our educational system, ensuring that our students' educational journey is enriched with Diné values and excellence."

Delegate Andy Nez highlighted the importance of the Bureau of Indian Education's strategic direction, focusing on instilling values of excellence, focus, integrity, Respect, and Service.

"The BIE's transformation aligns perfectly with our mission to deliver an education system that is culturally relevant and academically superior," Nez said.

The Navajo Nation Division of Education advocates for Diné education sovereignty, emphasizing integrating Diné language and culture into the curriculum. The collaborative efforts between the Navajo Nation and federal entities like the BIE are pivotal in ensuring a high-quality education that is both culturally and academically fulfilling.

The partnership with Infinite Campus to implement the Native American Student Information System is a step forward in modernizing educational administration and support. This system corresponds directly to school finances and is a testament to the commitment to using technology to enhance education.

James highlighted recent federal budget allocations as a victory for Navajo education, pointing out significant increases in funds for mental health, addressing teacher shortages, and supporting children with disabilities.

"These financial boosts are a clear indication of the progress we've made in advocating for the educational needs of our community," he stated.

The Navajo Nation's educational leaders are optimistic and determined about the future. Nez expressed a desire for deeper discussions and strategic planning, particularly regarding Title 10 and other educational statutes, to further enhance the education system.

James reiterated the importance of community involvement and leadership support in utilizing available resources. "Our school boards and educators must be aware of and pursue the funding opportunities that are now available to them," he emphasized.

Through the DBOBSA and HEHSC, the Navajo Nation continues to pave the way for an educational system that meets academic standards and deeply respects and promotes the Diné language and culture. This collaborative effort ensures that Navajo students are prepared for the future and equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world.

CELLULAR ONE® Celebrates 30 Years of Service by Launching its own Private Foundation to Champion the Company's Commitment to Empowering Tribal & Rural Communities across the Southwest

Carrier with a BIG Heart: Prioritizing Corporate Social Responsibility, Digital Equity

(Show Low, Ariz.) April 11, 2024 – Smith Bagley, Inc. (SBI), the company that owns Cellular One, Sunstate Technology Group, SBI Business, and fiber provider PHOTON by SBI is proud to announce the launch of its SBI Giving Foundation in celebration of the company's 30th Anniversary this year.

"For over 30 years, SBI has championed digital equity for underserved communities, but our organizational culture reaches far beyond the business of being a technology company," said Judd Hinkle, CEO. "Giving back has always been part of our DNA. As we celebrate 30 years and look to the next chapter, our new SBI Giving Foundation will amplify our commitment to making a positive impact by championing a wide variety of community programs and projects that empower youth, women, elders, vets, and families living in the Tribal and rural communities we serve."

Founded by entrepreneur and philanthropist Smith Bagley, SBI's Cellular One has long been known as a carrier with a BIG heart, lending support to a wide variety of programs, fundraisers, and local charities including Diné Skate Garden Project, Navajo Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives, the Annual Hopi Earth Day Cleanup, and the White Mountain Apache Kids Fishing Derby, and many more.

Just last week, the new SBI Giving Foundation joined forces with NDN Girls Book Club, 4 KINSHIP, and Abalone Mountain Press to carry out the YLETA! Native Book Tour, which brought an astounding 10,000 Native-authored books to youth and families across Navajo and Hopi communities in just 5 days.

"Navajo and Hopi Tribal Lands are considered book deserts, where literacy is a significant challenge among youth. Therefore, we are proud to launch our SBI Giving Foundation in such a powerful way with a culturally relevant, highly successful book tour created to bring more Native-authored books to Navajo and Hopi families, nurture a love of reading among youth, and inspire the next generation of Native writers and poets," added Hinkle.

For more information about SBI Giving Foundation please visit sbigiving.org.

Smith Bagley, Inc. (SBI) at 30

After 30 years in business, SBI is a highly versatile technology company, providing not only mobile voice and broadband services, but also fixed wireless Internet, point-to-point microwave, data transport, fiber optic connectivity, and more. Headquartered in Show Low, Arizona, the company primarily serves Tribal lands and rural communities throughout the American Southwest, including the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, and White Mountain Apache Tribal Nations.

SBI—doing business as Cellular One—operates a mobile network of more than 240 cell sites, with a license area covering nearly 60,000 square miles. The company pioneered the utilization of the federal Lifetime subsidy for mobile, which made mobile phone service attainable for financially challenged families in rural and Tribal communities throughout the Southwest and beyond.

In addition to Cellular One, SBI also owns and operates SBI Business—a seasoned ERATE/CT service provider to regional schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities, Sunstate Technology Group—an IT managed services provider, and PHOTON by SBI—a fiber provider.



Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya joined NDN Girls Book Club and SBI Giving Foundation to kick off the YLETA! Native Book Tour in Window Rock on April 1st.

MARCH 3, 2024

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

The BIA-Eastern Navajo Agency will be conducting outreach presentations to inform grazing permittees and the public on the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal Project for grazing permits administered by the BIA. At the outreach session, Branch of Natural Resources staff will present detail information on the overall process, inventory status, grazing rental rate, Authority-to-Grant program for allotment lands, timeline, and grazing permit requirements, as well as provide answers and technical assistance. Current grazing permits administered by the BIA for Land Management Districts 16, 19, and 20 will expire December 31, 2024. The Outreach Presentation Schedule is as follows:

Date / Time / Day of the Week	Location
4/16/2024 10:00a.m. Tuesday	Chichilthah
4/16/2024 1:00p.m. Tuesday	Baahaal (Breadsprings)
4/17/2024 10:00a.m. Wednesday	Red Rock/Tse' Lichi'
4/17/2024 1:00p.m. Wednesday	Manuelito
4/18/2024 10:00a.m. Thursday	Tsayath
4/18/2024 1:00p.m. Thursday	Rock Springs
4/23/2024 10:00a.m. Tuesday	Iyanbito
4/23/2024 1:00p.m. Tuesday	Church Rock
4/24/2024 10:00a.m. Wednesday	Pinedale
4/24/2024 1:00p.m. Wednesday	Mariano Lake
4/25/2024 10:00a.m. Thursday	Thoreau
4/25/2024 1:00p.m. Thursday	Smith Lake
4/30/2024 10:00a.m. Tuesday	Casamero Lake
4/30/2024 1:00p.m. Tuesday	Littlewater
5/1/2024 10:00a.m. Wednesday	Huerfano
5/1/2024 1:00p.m. Wednesday	Nageezi
5/2/2024 10:00a.m. Thursday	Torreon/Star Lake
5/2/2024 1:00p.m. Thursday	Pueblo Pintado
5/7/2024 10:00a.m. Tuesday	Whitehorse Lake
5/7/2024 1:00p.m. Tuesday	Lake Valley
5/8/2024 10:00a.m. Wednesday	Becenti
5/8/2024 1:00p.m. Wednesday	Crownpoint

CURRENT GRAZING PERMITS WILL BE RENEWED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL PROCESS:



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT the BIA-Eastern Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources, Crownpoint, New Mexico, at (505) 786-6100/6129/6019.

NOTE: This is not part of the Navajo Nation Rangeland Revitalization Act of 2024.