

# A:shiwí A:wán Messenger



Issue 32 • August 30, 2023

## A:shiwí Tribal College Appoints Trustees, Plans Language Immersion School, Supports Community Wi-Fi, and Pursues Accreditation

### Board of Trustees

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a Board of Trustees for A:shiwí Tribal College. These individuals have taken on a variety of leadership and service roles within the community and are known as individuals that care for our community well-being:

Darlynn Panteah	John Lasiloo
Bernadette Panteah	Tahlia Natachu-Eriacho
Teresa Kanesta-Brislin	Dan Simplicio

The six individuals were officially appointed on August 24 in a ceremony conducted by the Zuni Tribal Council. A student board member will be appointed during the Fall semester. The public was invited to the morning ceremony, which started at 9:00am.

### Early Childhood Language Immersion School

The college leadership has ended the conventional design process of the school, and redesigned the Language Immersion School to be constructed from straw bale and adobe because of the rising costs of conventional materials, supplies, labor and methods.

An RFP for design-build proposals will appear soon to construct a small facility under approved straw bale and adobe guidelines and standards. The approved licensed contractor will also develop a plan to engage the community and anyone who wishes to learn more about straw bale and adobe construction. We will

## Update on the Zuni River Basin Adjudication and Settlement with the State of New Mexico

On May 1, 2023, the Tribe's Zuni River Basin (ZRB) Water Rights Settlement Agreement with the State of New Mexico was signed and executed and will be enforceable when Congress passes legislation acknowledging the Tribe's water rights claims.

The settlement agreement was signed by State Engineer, Mike Hamman, Attorney General Raul Torrez and Governor Michelle Grisham.

It is a great achievement for the Tribe as there is still much work to be done as the Settlement Agreement is now at the federal level and the Tribe's

keep the community informed of progress and activity.

### Tribal Wi-Fi Network Deployment

A:shiwí Tribal College held two days of planning with major partners: Cisco, Muralnet, Teltech and others to plan how best to engage community members to deploy the free modems and routers at homes without access to Wi-Fi. Priority for deployment are NTU/ATC students and any Dual Credit and ZPSD students without Wi-Fi.

We encourage community members desiring to learn new technology and become trained in Wi-Fi installation to call Vanessa Yuselew at (505) 782-6010 to schedule an interview. We will pay a stipend for training and installation.

### Tribal College Accreditation

The leadership of A:shiwí Tribal College and consultants continue to work through several key documents for eligibility and operational support. The upcoming BOT business meeting will allow us to file a number of these documents with appropriate agencies:

Non-profit applications to the State of New Mexico and the IRS for the ATC Foundation; Request for an EIN # for ATC and ATC Foundation; the HLC Substantial Presence Worksheet; the Application for Eligibility Process document; the AIHEC application; Registered Representative application; the Business Plan; transition plans and other organizational documents.

water rights settlement will hopefully be set in stone by Congress.

This work will still entail several years of federal negotiations and developing federal legislation, and we are optimistic that it will be favorable for the Tribe. The settlement objective is a fund-based settlement, meaning that when Congress approves the settlement agreement for the Tribe at the federal level, the Tribe will receive settlement funds to improve its water needs for the community, including its municipal system, irrigation and livestock, and other current and future water needs.

*Zuni River continues next page*

## Bluebird Phase IV Opens



On August 1, 2023, Zuni Housing Authority held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of Phase IV within the Bluebird subdivision. Ten families were presented with keys to their brand-new homes. Phase IV is not the last area of Bluebird to be developed. On March 22, 2004, the Zuni Tribe via a tribal resolution assigned a 159-acre site to the Zuni Housing Authority, which identified a master plan to develop residential homes, a mobile home park, community buildings, a laundromat, and playground areas.

Phase I, containing 20 homes, was completed in November of 2007. Phase II, which contains 10 homes, was completed in February of 2011, and Phase III was completed in July 2011, with 12 homes completed. Moving westward, an additional 10 homes were added within Phase IV, along with 13 one- and two-bedroom rental units. It's been a 16-year journey to completion of 65 houses, which 65 families now call home.

Phase IV homes and rentals were completed with funding from the 2018/2019 Indian Housing Block (IHBG) Competitive Grant of \$5,000,000, with carryover of IHBG funds of \$4,153,034, and ZHA investments of \$1,682,344. These funds were used for infrastructure and dwellings.

Of the 159-acre site, 53.97 acres have been developed, while 105.33 acres are yet to be developed. ZHA will pursue additional funding sources to keep developing this area on the west side of Zuni.

It was truly a day of celebration for the ten families and ZHA along with their partners, Suina Design and Architecture, LLC., CF Padilla, LLC., Yellowman/Evans Construction LLC., Earthworks Engineering Group LLC., and Taylor Tsosie, Independent Inspector.

For more information on achieving homeownership, contact Zuni Housing Authority at (505) 418-4265.

POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER  
ZUNI, NEW MEXICO  
87327

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 3  
ZUNI, NM 87327

Minor rise in COVID statewide;  
trend expected to continue

Have you been boosted?

# Zuni Housing Authority Seeks to Fill Board Vacancy

Zuni River continues from page 1

The Zuni Tribal Council is seeking one (1) individual to fill a vacancy on the five (5) member Board of Commissioners for the Zuni Housing Authority. Persons interested in serving as a Board of Commissioner shall submit a letter of interest with a resume to the following:

Rhoda A. Eustace  
Zuni Housing Authority  
P. O. Box 710, 104 D Avenue  
Zuni, New Mexico 87327

Individuals with knowledge, skills and experience in the following areas are encouraged to apply: Indian housing regulations and operations, construction, housing management, business management, short- and long-term

organizational planning, excellent interpersonal skills, strong verbal and written communication skills, team working, desire and commitment to attend quarterly Board of Commissioners meetings and willing to travel when necessary.

The selected Board of Commissioners shall receive stipends for attending meetings, and reimbursement for expenses, such as travel expenses incurred in the discharge of duties. Selected applicant must be insurable through ZHA's vehicle policy and submit to a standard employment background check. Final selection and appointment will be made by the Zuni Tribal Council. This Vacancy announcement will be open until filled.

## Zuni Housing Authority Requests Applications for Rehab/Renovation and Veterans Services

### Home Renovation Services

The Zuni Housing Authority (ZHA) will be submitting a grant application for rehab/renovation funds under the 2023 Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG).

The available funding under this grant has increased, so ZHA intends to take full advantage of this opportunity to obtain more funds to assist homeowners within the Zuni community.

To demonstrate the need for these funds, the ZHA is seeking applicants in need of home rehab or renovation.

### Veterans Services

The ZHA is also seeking applicants for the Tribal HUD-VASH Program. This is a program under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing component that can assist low-income veterans with housing vouchers if the veteran is homeless or at risk of being homeless.

For more information on the above services or to obtain an application, please contact the Zuni Housing Authority at (505) 418-4265 or 4290, or visit our offices in Blackrock. Applications are also available on the ZHA's website, [www.pozha.org](http://www.pozha.org).

## Pueblo of Zuni Office of Planning & Development Updates

### New Tribal Administration Building Project

The New Tribal Administration Building project kickoff meeting was held on August 15, 2023. The project consultant, Dekker Perich Sabatini, met with program managers from the Administrative Services Division to initiate the planning phase of the project. Planning services are funded by the \$100,000 2022 New Mexico Capital Outlay award.

Numerous design team meetings will be held throughout the duration of the project and community meetings will be scheduled when project milestones are reached. A website for this project will be created that will allow everyone to stay informed of the project.

This project was awarded an additional \$1,010,000 in 2023 State Capital Outlay funding that will allow the project to continue into the design phase when the planning phase is complete.

A conceptual drawing of the building is on page 3.

### New Mexico State Awards Recap

The Pueblo of Zuni received the following Capital Outlay awards in 2023:

- Zuni Fair Building Construction \$850,000
- Zuni Veteran's Visitor's Center Design \$450,000
- Zuni Veteran's Visitor's Center Construction \$460,000
- Zuni Fire & EMS Station Planning \$400,000
- Zuni Fire & EMS Station Design \$225,000
- Zuni Audiology & Optical Facility Planning \$30,000
- Zuni Tribal Administration Building Design & Construct \$1,010,000

Updates for each project will be provided to the community when project milestones are reached.

### Red Bolt Broadband Project Update

Everyone will be connected and have service by October 2023.

As a reminder, you are not obligated to connect service but keep in mind that this service is FREE OF CHARGE UNTIL OCTOBER 2025. Please call Red Bolt at 505-658-2487 to initiate broadband service or for any service inquiries.

For more detail, see the Red Bolt maps of community coverage on pages 3 and 4. If you have any questions about any of these projects, please contact the Office of Planning & Development at [POZ.OPD@ashiwi.org](mailto:POZ.OPD@ashiwi.org) or 505-782-7282.

The Tribe has been involved in the ZRB General Stream Adjudication since 2001. The technical expertise, lawyers and prior Water Rights Program managers worked diligently in the Tribe's water rights claims for many years. The Tribe along with the State of New Mexico and the Federal government opted to work on a settlement agreement rather than litigate, and have been in discussions and negotiations since 2013.

The Tribe spent a number of years developing a proposal and submitted its final proposal to the State of New Mexico in 2019. Since then, the Tribe through its Water Rights Program (WRP) have actively negotiated with the State of New Mexico.

Through lengthy negotiations, the Tribe reached a settlement agreement with the State of New Mexico in December of 2022, and the agreement was signed by former Governor Val Panteah on December 21, 2022.

The Tribe's water rights team consisted of past water rights coordinators Joan Sandy and the late Andres Cheama. Currently, the team consists of former Tribal Water Resources hydrologist, now an independent consultant, Kirk Bemis, Water Rights lawyers Jane Marx and Josh Mann, Zuni's General Counsel David Meilke, and technical consultants from Glorieta Geoscience Inc., Paul Drakos, Meghan Hodgins, James Riesterer, and Abbey Guidry.

Other technical consultants including Stetson Engineers Inc. of San Rafael, CA, were requested for their expertise, and assisted the Tribe through contract to develop settlement cost estimates for a fund-based settlement agreement for the Tribe.

Support from previous and current administrations helped push the ZRB team in discussions and negotiations with the State of New Mexico to finally reach a water rights settlement agreement in 2022, signed by former Governor Panteah but executed this year in May of 2023.

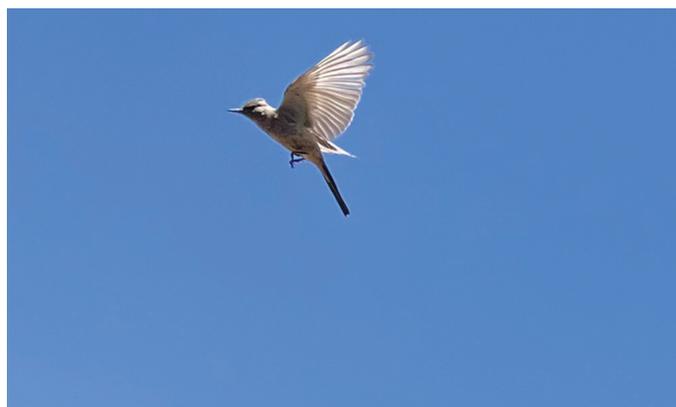
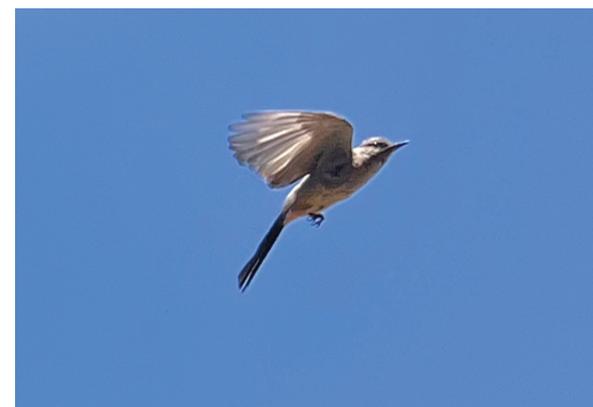
The main objective of the settlement has been to quantify the Tribe's water rights within the ZRB based on aboriginal and senior priority rights, and to protect those rights in perpetuity.

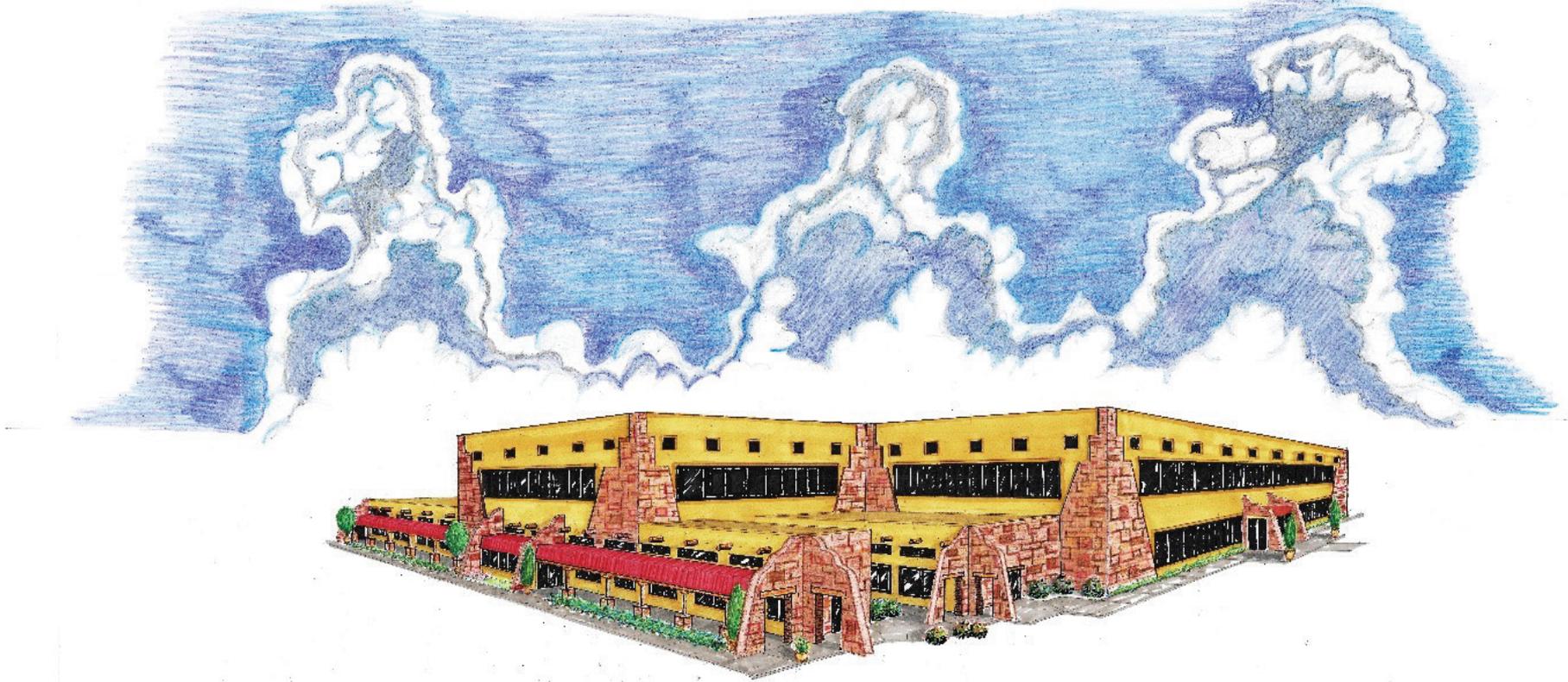
The mission of the Zuni Water Rights Program (WRP) is to adjudicate and protect all the water resources of the Zuni Tribe for the benefit of tribal members, present and future generations.

The WRP seeks to protect all of Zuni's surface and groundwater resources. The water resources include surface water that flows from springs through groundwater outflows into rivers and streams reaching the Zuni homelands, and which have the potential to be impacted in the short and long term.

The WRP will continue to work to protect any potential impacts to all water resources of the Tribe by involving its water rights attorneys and technical consultants, and experts in the fields of legal proceedings and water sciences.

Additional detailed information can be obtained by contacting the Water Rights Program at (505) 782-2123.



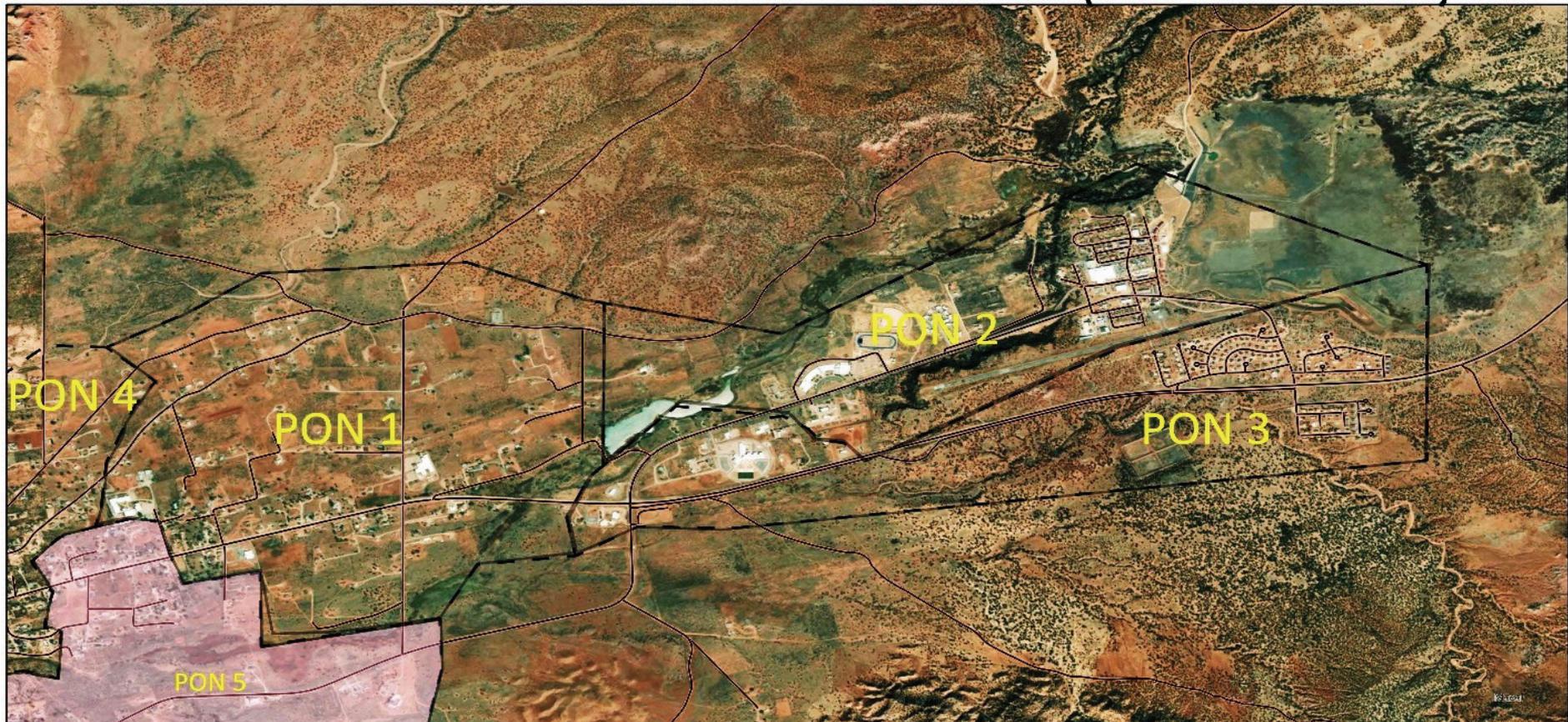


## ZUNI TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PUEBLO OF ZUNI  
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
DRAWN BY: RON WATKINS 10.11.08

Conceptual drawing of a New Tribal Administration Building, drawn by Ronald Watch, OPD Construction Project Manager

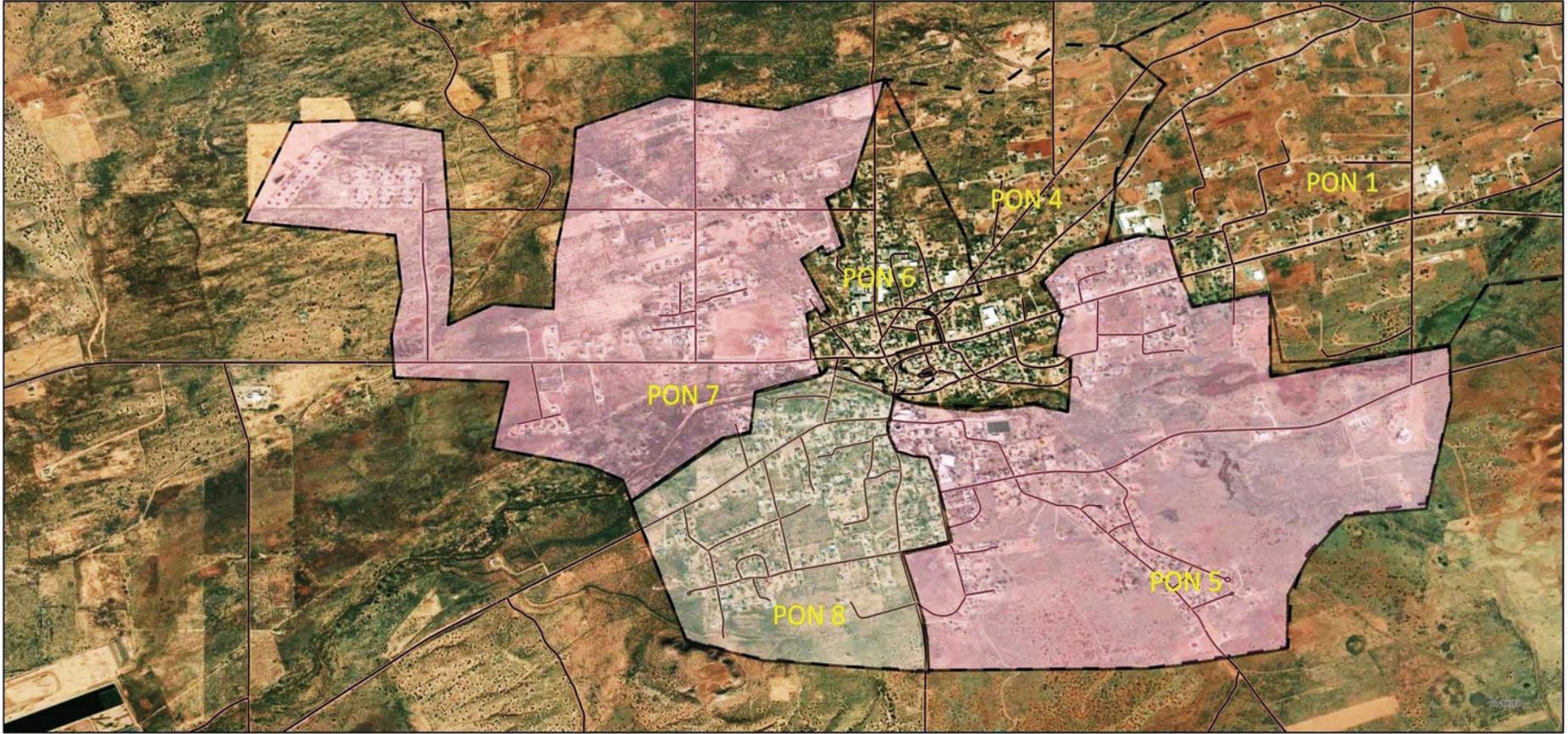
## Red Bolt Broadband Service Area (COMPLETED)



PON 1, 2, 3 & 4 - HOMES ELIGIBLE FOR CONNECTION TO BROADBAND SERVICE



# Red Bolt Broadband Service Area



PON 1 & 4 HOMES CONNECTED OR ELIGIBLE FOR CONNECTION TO BROADBAND SERVICE.

PON 5, 6 & 7 - MAJORITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED. FIBER IS BEING SPLICED AND TESTED TO THE HOMES. BROADBAND SERVICE CONNECTIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 2023.

PON 8 - CONSTRUCTION IS ON-GOING AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF AUGUST 2023. CREWS WILL BEGIN SPLICING AND TESTING THE FIBER TO HOMES IN SEPTEMBER 2023. BROADBAND SERVICE CONNECTION TO HOMES TO BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 2023.



## Children and Families Embraced Food Sovereignty This Summer with the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project

Summer is a critical time of year for the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project's Food Sovereignty initiative, which is made possible with support from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Native American Agriculture Fund, New Mexico Department of Health and Newman's Own Foundation. Not only is this the active growing season, it's also the season for sharing knowledge and gaining experience through ZYEP's Summer Camp, community workshops, and family gardens program.

During the 15th annual Summer Camp, ZYEP's Food Sovereignty team and 21 counselors guided 120 campers ages 6-12 through a four-week journey that combined agriculture and art. According to Zachary James, ZYEP Food Sovereignty team member and water conservation specialist, each week was dedicated to an element of the nonprofit youth project's Food Sovereignty motto.



"Our motto is, 'We Grow, We Share, We Eat, We Save,'" he explained. "So the first week was all about 'We Grow.' Our campers planted onions in pots that they could take home, they journaled and drew their dream gardens, and we took some of the older campers to visit other gardens in our community."

For the second week's "We Share" activities, campers created sidewalk art with chalk and rock art with acrylic paint, which really made the ZYEP greenhouse "pop," James said. They also made lists of things that were important to them, and they went home with instructions to show appreciation for these things.

"During the third week, for 'We Eat,' the campers tried different types of produce," James said. "Many of them had never tried radishes, which are one of our cold weather crops. They also made origami butterflies and both stencil and freehand drawings for the greenhouse."

For "We Save," the campers learned about the differences between GMO and non-GMO seeds as well as the importance of seed-saving and conserving water. They also created plastic decorations for chainlink fence around the greenhouse.

"We had an awesome time, even though it was hot," James remembered. "It was a chillax vibe for creating art. Some of our kids haven't had the opportunity to be in a garden, so decorating our garden space with their art makes it feel like it belongs to them. It makes it feel like home."

During the four weeks of Summer Camp, Zuni youth also had opportunities to take nutrition classes with Food Sovereignty team members Brittny Seowtewa, Kenzi Bowekaty and Khassia Hattie. During the first week, they

made salad with homemade dressing and fruit; the second week, they learned about sugary drinks.

"We brought in store-bought drinks and then measured how many teaspoons of real sugar were in each drink," Seowtewa said. "Then we dumped it all out to show them how much sugar that is. They were shocked."

"Then we taught them how to make homemade lemonade that would taste good with less sugar," she added.

*Agriculture continues next page*



*Agriculture continues from previous page*

In the third week, the campers made mango salsa with blue corn chips, and in the fourth week, they made corn quesadillas with fresh pico de gallo.

The team handed out heirloom seeds, in keeping with the “We Save” portion of the motto, and the children each went home with a cutting board, a plastic knife, and an apron they decorated.

“I remember the kids leaving class laughing and smiling,” James recalled. “They were talking about how good the lemonade and salsa were. These memories will stick with them.”

“We plan this all out, but it’s the kids who make it so special,” Seowtewa noted. “They bring the lessons to life and make them fun. The things they say, their imaginations...they’re so comfortable being themselves when they’re here.”

In addition to hosting Summer Camp for Zuni youth, ZYEP also has been busy with monthly Food Sovereignty workshops for community members of all ages. These are free and open to the public.

On June 14, the Water Conservation Workshop drew

roughly 50 families to learning stations that involved games, educational activities, and the sharing of important cultural knowledge. All families went home with shade cloths for their gardens.

“It was Kenzi’s idea, with support from our Agriculture Committee, to have a table dedicated to cultural knowledge sharing,” Seowtewa said. “It was wonderful to have this open dialogue, so this table will now be a feature at all of our community workshops. It’s cool to see friendships develop as people help and support each other.”

Approximately 40 families attended the Pest Management Workshop on July 12. They learned about fencing, do’s and don’ts, and beneficial insects versus pests; they played games including “Pin the Tail on the Prairie Dog”; they designed seed-saving boxes and pots; and they took home bottles of ZYEP’s homemade pest-control recipe.

The next workshop was on August 23, and focused on healthy recipes from the garden and how to prepare them. The final workshops of the season will take place in September and October, and they will comprise a two-part series dedicated to seed-saving.

“We’ll also be doing our ‘Proud to Be a Shiwí Farmer’

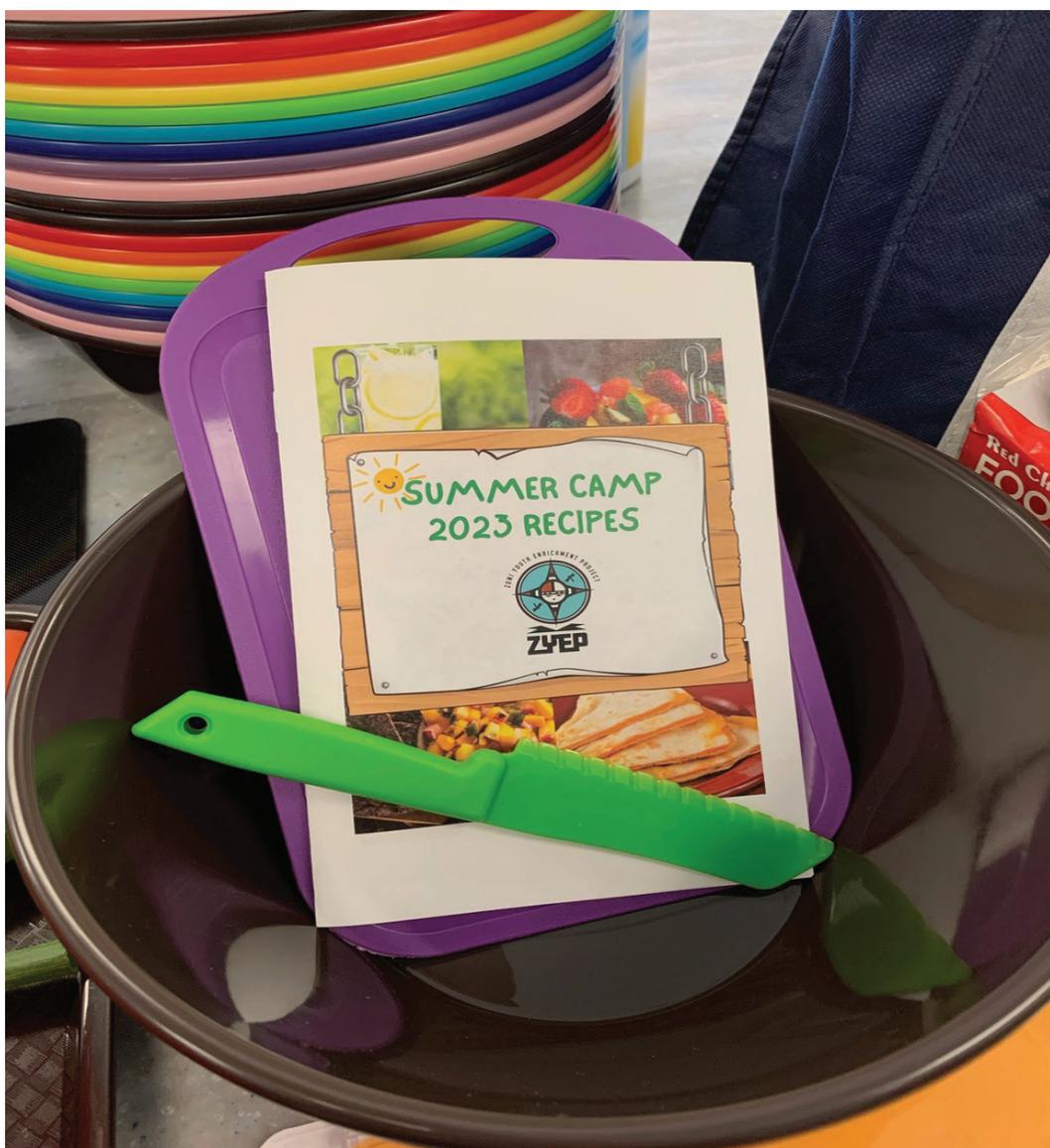
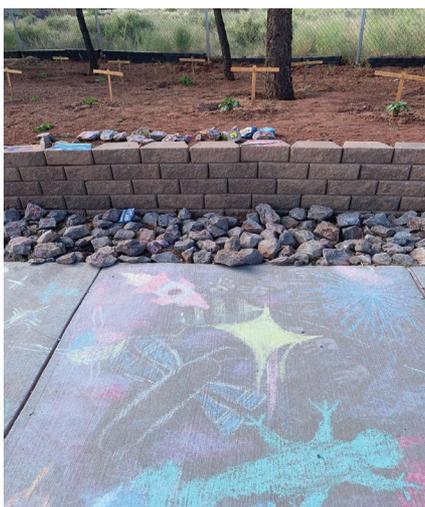
family visits,” Seowtewa said. Eighty families registered this season to receive Garden Kits and rain barrels for their home-gardening and water-conservation efforts.

According to James, the summer heat has been a major topic in recent weeks. Families have approached the ZYEP Food Sovereignty team during workshops to ask questions and share information about best practices for protecting their plants.

“We talk about watering only at certain times of the day, conserving water and using only what you need, and moisture retention,” he explained. “Ground cover and shade cloths also are important tools.”

As fall approaches, ZYEP is preparing for the Agricultural Showcase at the Zuni Fair in late September. The team also is looking forward to the fall series of Family Cook Nights.

These monthly cooking events are major highlights in the annual Food Sovereignty program calendar. Offered in person and via Zoom, they give families in the Pueblo of Zuni new opportunities to make multiple-course meals using nutritious, plant-based ingredients.



# Zuni Youth Enrichment Project Hosts Youth Soccer League, Announces Fundraiser with New Mexico United

The popular Youth Sport initiative is in full swing at the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project this summer. Made possible by support from Nike, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), ZYEP Youth Sport recently wrapped up its inaugural T-ball season and is now hosting its annual soccer league for 80 young people ages 4-14.

What's more, ZYEP and New Mexico's professional soccer team, New Mexico United, will be hosting a fundraiser on September 30 to support Zuni youth. During their home game that day, NMU will donate \$5 from each ticket to ZYEP.

"It is their Indigenous Peoples Night," explained Tahlia Natachu, ZYEP's executive director. "Our players will have the opportunity to attend the game with their families, watch the team warm-ups, be recognized during the game, and go out onto the field afterward to meet the professional players, get autographs and take photos."

According to NMU, all youth associated with ZYEP, as well as kids whose families purchased tickets through the dedicated fundraiser link, will be given this special experience. For more information and to purchase tickets for the game, visit: <https://pa.exchange/marketplace/5488d39c-3de9-11ee-bdd1-dd69e8f5c5e1/storefront/5488d4fa-3de9-11ee-8f8e-fd6faf41ce06>.

In the meantime, ZYEP's 80 players in the 2023 soccer league are busy with their season. Practices began on July 24, with four teams practicing at Ho'n A:wan Park on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6-7 p.m., and two teams practicing on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30-7:30 p.m. The teams are organized by age group.



"We have a higher number of registered participants this year," said Tyler Sice, ZYEP's physical activity coordinator. "We have 26 players that qualify for U10, so we split it into two teams."

Sice also reflected on another new development this summer: ZYEP's first T-ball season. The inaugural league, which ended in late July, provided a wide variety of valuable lessons and experiences.

"Next year, we'll have a shade structure and half-time events like a half-time home-run derby for youth and families," he noted. "We'll also have a longer season, because it was such a highlight to have strong parent and family engagement."

ZYEP's first cohort of T-ball coaches also learned from their experiences. Jalen Hannaweekea said he had fun teaching the community's 4- and 5-year-olds a sport they hadn't tried before.

"I learned that it takes patience and confidence to teach children their age, since it doesn't take much for them to lose focus," he reflected. "I enjoyed this a lot. Thank you to ZYEP for giving me such a fun opportunity."

Kalil Edaakie said she learned that T-ball is more than just a game — it's an introduction to baseball and softball, which will come later. She also noted that any apprehensiveness she felt about teaching such young

children melted away during the four-week league.

"I'm so glad I got to know this memorable group of kids," she said. "Each kiddo, with their own personality, learned and had fun with the game while also making new friends. Hopefully they'll stick with the sport, keep having fun, and keep cheering for their friends."

"It really had an impact on me, how excited the kids were to learn and how much they enjoyed themselves," she continued. "It influenced me to become more open to the idea of working with kids."

Mariah Natewa said it was a fun season, and the hour-long morning practices and games were perfect for this age group.

"It was fun to see these young kids step out of their comfort zone," she said. "I want to give my thanks to ZYEP for putting this on. I would not mind coaching again!"

ZYEP's Youth Sport initiative brings together staff, com-

munity coaches and parents to create a highly supportive, empowering environment for youth participants. During each league, children develop new skills, learn the value of teamwork, build confidence, and perhaps most importantly, have fun.

More than 500 youth participate in ZYEP Youth Sport leagues each year. In addition to soccer and T-ball, young people also are able to take advantage of a spring basketball league and a late-summer flag football league.



## NEW MEXICO UNITED

We are fundraising with tickets to the NMU Indigenous Peoples Night

09/30/2023



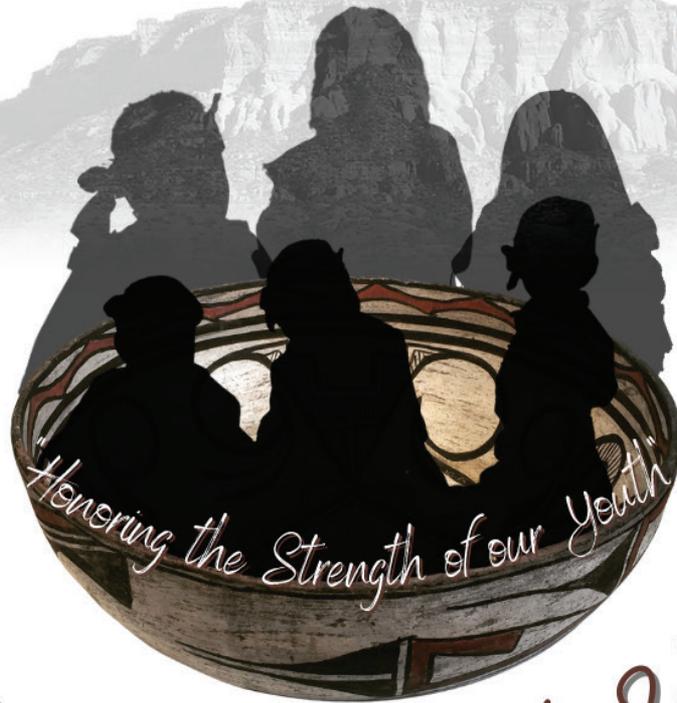
**\$5 from every ticket sold will go directly back to the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project!!**

**Scan The Code To Access Tickets and Join Us!**



# Mark your Calendars!!

## 58th Annual Zuni Tribal Fair

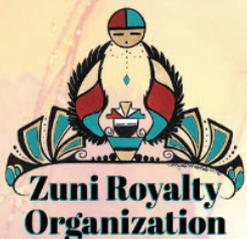


# September 21-24, 2023

PARADES | ROYALTY COMPETITION  
FOOD VENDORS | ARTS & CRAFT VENDORS  
COMPETITIONS | COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE  
BATTLE OF THE DJS | FREE BBQ  
& MUCH MUCH MORE!

Special Event Vendor Permits are available for purchase  
at the TERO & Taxation Office (505) 782-7111

**More info, call the Tribal Administrative Offices at (505) 782-7000 / 7021**





# EXPLORE

## *The New Street Names*

### **NEW PHYSICAL ADDRESSES & ROAD NAMES COMING TO ZUNI**



#### *What's changing?*

Pueblo of Zuni administration passed the Zuni Master Street Address Guide which will allow our community standardize the 911 streets by adding new road names within the community.



#### *When will it change?*

2023 will bring new changes in our neighborhoods with new house numbers and street names. Changes will be made throughout the entire year.



#### *What should I do?*

The new address will require tenants to update their state issued identification cards, financial institutions, finance companies and other companies that require address verification.



## **STAY POSTED, MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON...**

**CONTACT US**

Quentin Lallo  
GIS Technician

Monday - Friday 8am-5pm  
505-782-5852 Ext: 6310